

# Valley Women's Voice

MARCH 1988

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The Washington Sisters performed at the Northampton Center for the Arts in February. Photo by Elizabeth Oeder.

## Abilism

BY LAURA RAUSCHER

"Ablism," or "handicapism" is a theory and set of practices which promotes unequal and unjust treatment of persons based on real or perceived differences in intellectual or physical ability/appearance.

According to the 1980 census, some 36 million people in this country are disabled. Disability affects people from all walks of life. It doesn't discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, sexual preference, or economic status.

Though disabled people are different in some ways, we all experience the effects of personal, social, and institutional oppression, called abilism. In order to understand abilism, we must first understand that while disability does present a real problem in disabled people's lives, negative attitudes and discriminatory social constructs present an even greater problem.

Disabled people's experiences of oppression are not unlike those of other disenfranchised groups. Subtle and overt forms of segregation, isolation, and discrimination are everywhere. Disabled people are kept from the mainstream society through architectural inaccessibility, discriminatory policies, and exclusionary programs. Disabled people experience a lack of accessible housing and transportation, limited opportunities for education and employment, and receive inadequate healthcare and support from community programs.

These types of exclusionary practices and inadequate programs separate disabled and non-disabled people. This separation promotes misunderstanding and misinformation, and creates fertile ground for stereotypes and myths. These get reinforced by the media and other social institutions, and so the cycle goes on.

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## Sonia Sanchez-- Africa's Children: Loving Our- Selves, Empowering Our People

by Lisa Horan

On February 14, Sonia Sanchez, poet and political activist, spoke on "Africa's Children: Loving Ourselves, Empowering Our People" at Amherst College. Sanchez, an international lecturer, has traveled extensively speaking on issues of Black culture and literature, women's liberation, and racial justice. Approximately 50 people attended the event, which was sponsored by the women's group of the Amherst College Black Student Union.

At 54, Sonia Sanchez has published 13 books of poetry and prose. In 1985, she won the American Book Award for her work *Home Girls and Hand Grenades*. She was also a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Award and the Lucretia Mott Award, in 1984. Sanchez is currently a professor of English and Presidential Scholar at Temple University in Philadelphia.

"My life has been dedicated to resurrecting us and other people of color from the mire and muck of a past that said we didn't exist. That we were too dumb to read or write. I grew up with that. My teachers told me that I could not take Latin or French because my tongue was too thick. And we fought and fought and said 'Yes we can!' and 'Yes we will!'"

Sanchez said the one thing that motivated her so much in her lifetime was that she "Understood fully, and against great odds, that in order to survive I had to finally look up and love myself."

Her lecture dealt with several issues: campus racism, the effect of drugs on the black community, and in particular, the struggle of growing up as a black woman in a racist society.

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## New Africa House Takeover: The Inside Struggle

by Laura MacKay

Exhausted, surrounded by neglected laundry, JoElla Costello exclaimed with a laugh, "Men, you're dogs!" She was expressing the degree of anger she sometimes felt as one of the female protestors who occupied the New Africa House at the University of Massachusetts during a five-day takeover in February. "I was so mad at men," she said in a recent interview, "I didn't want to speak to anyone. I started getting real bitter inside."

The takeover, which began on February 12 in response to racial incidents on campus, highlighted the difficulties of organizing for change. The protestors not only had to contend with racism from "the outside;" they found they had to struggle with each other and themselves as individuals, with sexism and internalized prejudices. It was not as simple as "us against them."

Costello, who identifies herself as an "African-American, Native-American female," explained: "The hardest thing, I guess, for me being a woman was not so much what was happening on the outside. Racism, you know, we've all dealt with that, we could all identify with that. But on the inside, it was so abusive with the sexism. It hurt. The women that were there... it was so hurtening, what we had to take. They [the men] couldn't understand it. It was just like white people; they don't understand... you have to go through all these things... Well, we had to do the same thing with the men."

Of the 150 or more protestors that occupied the building, somewhere between one-third to one-half were women at any given time, according to Costello. In that sense, women were well represented in the action, "but you could clearly see more men talking," she said. When as many as 300 students gathered for the first general meeting, leadership was "mostly comprised of men who were telling everyone what to do." When there was some discussion about women's participation, she heard this comment: "We're not gonna get no bimbo up there talking."

Not all of the sexism going on took such glaring form, but "just because it wasn't blatant doesn't mean it wasn't there," said Costello. "Women were always cleaning up. Why weren't the men doing it?" she asked. "But let the camera [the television news media] come on, and they run! But do the nitty gritty? No."

The media committee that was set up to talk with the press included many women, but they again found that men were doing most of the talking. "They [the male protestors] were excluding women, and they didn't even see that. They wanted to get maybe one woman up there and not have her talk much. That was very apparent in the beginning," according to Costello.

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We would also like to extend our appreciation to Pat Kochin at the GRC Computing Center for her assistance in preparing type.

## WOMEN'S DIRECTORY

The Valley Women's Voice is compiling a listing of resources owned by and/or serving primarily women in the Pioneer Valley and beyond. The directory will be printed each month. Listings for not-for-profit organizations are free. The rate for all others is \$8 per month for each listing.

To be listed in the Women's Directory of Resources, send the name, address, and phone number of your organization, along with a brief description (2-3 sentences, not exceeding a total of 25 words) of the services you offer. Listings may be edited to fit size constraints. We reserve the right to reject any listing.

## SUBSCRIBE

\$1 per issue

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## Abilism, continued from P. 1

In an effort to change all this, people with disabilities and others have begun to work to break the cycle. In the last 15 years, disabled people have come together to form the disability rights movement. In the late 1960's, students started disabled students' service programs on many college campuses. A model program was started at the University of California/Berkeley to provide comprehensive support services such as accessible housing, transportation, personal care, and academic support. Students participating in this model program found new levels of independence. Upon graduating, however, they were faced with returning to the dependent situations they had left four years earlier.

In an effort to extend the kinds of services and support they had received at college, these disabled graduates applied for and received a grant from the Department of Education to establish a community-based program called the Center for Independent Living. The philosophical principles on which the center was founded were a radical departure from the traditional medical and rehabilitative service models. The center was the first cross-disability, consumer-controlled organization in the country. It was established by disabled people to serve disabled people. It was intended to be not only a services organization, but also an advocacy organization working for the rights of disabled people. The center gave long-silenced

disabled people a voice in the issues that affect their lives. There are now over 200 centers in the country.

Shortly after the establishment of the Center for Independent Living in 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was passed prohibiting discrimination on the basis of handicap in any federally funded program. That same year, the Education for Handicapped Children Act was passed, guaranteeing disabled children the right to a free, appropriate, public education. These two laws significantly changed the lives of disabled children and adults in America.

Since that time, many improvements have been made in increasing architectural accessibility, education, and employment opportunities. However, we still have far to go. Over 200,000 disabled people still remain institutionalized due to lack of accessible housing and community services. Seventy-five percent of all buses in this country are not accessible. National studies show that between 60 and 80 percent of all disabled people of working age are unemployed.

Obviously, we must work for better enforcement of these laws. At the same time, we must work to eliminate the myths and stereotypes about disabled people. No permanent changes can be made until we, as individuals, find the courage to examine and change the old attitudes and assumptions which remain the greatest obstacle to disabled people having a valued role in our society.

## Letter from the Valley Women's Voice Collective

Women's voices have been deliberately and systematically silenced by patriarchy. The Valley Women's Voice, founded on the belief that women must not be silent, provides a place for women's voices. The new collective shares the goals of our fore-sisters, who wrote:

The Valley Women's Voice is founded on the principles of feminist advocacy journalism. We aim to provide an open forum for all women to discuss ideas, share options, celebrate our heritage, and advertise resources, services, and events by and for women. We will be providing feminist analysis and advocating for societal change, as well as contributing to women's culture. By serving as a communication channel between women in the Pioneer Valley we will be expanding the networking, sharing, and visioning that is essential to our women's strength...

We aim to encourage women in the expression of their ideas and creative energies through organizing, writing, photography, and art. Since we are committed to providing an open

forum, we invite all work that is not racist, sexist, or homophobic in content or style. In an effort to increase communication between the collective and the women's community, we will deliver feedback on any work not accepted.

We plan to feature a number of regular columns on different aspects of women's lives. Some of the features you can look forward to are:

Sisterspeak will provide a social commentary.

Positively Revolting will feature activists from our herstory and present-day activists from the Valley. The work of women activists too often goes unrecognized and unrewarded. This is an opportunity to recognize and praise the commitment and dedication of political women activists.

Monthly Emissions will discuss different ideas, values, and attitudes about menstruation, and alternatives to the misogynist guidelines governing this topic.

Crone's Corner will look at the exciting and active work our older sisters are doing in the community. Society paints a very degrading picture of older women, depicting them as bland, unintelligent, uninteresting. We will look at the contributions older women are making to the community: politics, artwork, literature, business, community service.

Feminist Forum will provide an on-going woman-to-woman forum where questions, opinions, and concerns will be aired. We will print replies from community women.

We will also feature music and book reviews, a directory of resources for women, an AIDS update, poetry and short stories, and artwork. Of course, you can still count on the Valley Women's Voice to provide you with a calendar of events, public service announcements, and newsbriefs from around the globe.

We look forward to receiving your letters, poetry, articles, and graphics. Feel free to contact us at any time to discuss your ideas for possible articles or new columns!



## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The Valley Women's Voice is a newsjournal created from the words and images of women directed at providing a forum for diverse voices: concern, rage, celebration, struggle, confusion. We strive to communicate and strengthen the bonds between women by making them visible in our pages. The Valley Women's Voice would like to hear from all women. We welcome submissions that are not sexist, racist, homophobic, ageist, or otherwise prejudiced.

Submissions should be 3-5 pages typed and double spaced. Your name, address and phone number should be enclosed with all materials. If you wish to remain anonymous, please indicate this when submitting items. Submissions accompanied with a self-addressed, stamped envelope will be returned within three months. The decision to print is made collectively. All major editorial changes are made in conjunction with the author. Although we cannot afford to pay contributors, we do send a complimentary copy of the issue in which your article appears.

Letters, articles, poetry, graphics, and photographs are appreciated. If you have any ideas, or are not sure how your particular interests and talents may add to the paper, call us and let's discuss the possibilities. The phone number is (413) 545-2436.

Send submissions to:  
Article and Photograph Coordinator  
Valley Women's Voice  
Student Union Bldg.  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, MA 01003

## CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENT LISTINGS

The Valley Women's Voice would like to print announcements and publicize events of interest to women. Listings are free and should be kept to five lines in length. Announcements for non-profit organizations will be given preference and additional space when it is available. Announcements and calendar listings must be submitted in writing by the 20th of the month preceding publication. For more information, call (413) 545-2436.

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Sixteenth page (2 col. x 2") ..... \$35.00  
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### Additional Charges

Typesetting/layout ..... add \$2/col. inch  
Camera work ..... add \$5 to total  
Graphic artwork ..... add \$2/col. inch

A column inch is 2 1/2 inches wide by 1 inch long. All ads, and changes in ad copy, must be received by the 20th of the month prior to publication, unless other arrangements are made with our ad representative. Payment, if it does not accompany ad, is due seven days prior to publication. In lieu of "tear sheets," all advertisers will receive a complimentary copy of the issue in which their advertisement appears.



# SISTERSPEAK:

## What's Wrong with 'Have a Nice Day'?

by Holly Williamson

Yeah, so this is a sexist society. We've all felt the urge to get a gun and shoot some of the assholes we run into at some time or another. But chances are that the defense "he said 'nice ass, babe'" wouldn't hold up in court. So what do you do? Sexism is not funny, but every once in a while you run into some situation that is too absurd for true outrage. Examples are pick-up lines like "nice shoes, wanna fuck?" and "I'll bet yer good in bed." Who told these fellas that these lines work? Surely not dear ol' mom. Well, I don't know, and to tell you the truth, I'd kind of forgotten about the blatant audacity of some guys after another semester spent in a semi-enlightened college community. So I went home for intercession, to spend five and a half weeks remembering while working in the Boston area.

I was sitting on a T subway train. A man sat down across from me and stared at me. And stared. And stared. And started grinding himself into his seat. After a few minutes, I was rather pissed off and repulsed by his rudeness and addressed him with hostility: "What are you staring at?" "I like blonds." "Stop looking at me." This animosity on my part angered him, of course, so he glared at me instead. When he finally got off the train, he stood outside the window and stuck his tongue out at me while grabbing his crotch. What a thrill! A positively delightful experience, I'd say.

So I don't have a car. A woman walking to work is like a woman wearing a sign on her back that reads "fuckable." It takes me twenty minutes to walk to work: six beeps, two 'hey baby's', and one stop per walk. I have to deal with these assholes assertively. Once, a carload of highschool kids in daddy's car catcalled, and then got stopped at a red light. I went over to the car and made them drive me directly to work. Curb service too. The girl in the car was quite embarrassed. I was pleased. And I made it to work on time.

Once, this guy stopped his truck and opened the door. I walked on with a firm "fuck off." He drove up on the sidewalk and stopped again. So I tried a cordial "leave me alone." He drove up on the sidewalk again,

this time in front of me, and waited. I changed my strategy and ran around him in the middle of the road. I ran all the way to work. My wonderful-liberated-male manager was surprised to see me at work on time.

One day I was at work as usual. I work in a record store. A young man came up to the desk with a couple of tapes. I rang up the sale, and commented on one of his selections, "Good album." This encouragement, of course, prompted him to comment on one of my physical attributes: "No bra today, huh." "WHAT?!!!" "No bra today" - this time accompanied by hand motions of holding a lump of breast in each hand. I kept my cool, and handled the situation calmly: "YOU GODDAMNED PIG GET THE FUCK OUT OF THIS STORE AND DON'T YOU EVER COME BACK-YOU ARE DISGUSTING!" He laughed and ran out. I was duly flattered by his remark, and called to my wonderful-liberated-male manager to cover for me while I went out back and smoked a cigarette or two.

Then there are the little annoyances: the hilarious phone number jokes, the 'blonds are more fun' jokes. These guys are a riot. So I dyed my hair blue and then I just got comments about how a) freaky b) ridiculous c) disgusting d) fucking wicked-duh-fucked up looking I was. I was crushed that these jerks no longer found me attractive! Hey, there you go.

Now I must admit I am relieved to be back in Amherst. Not to say there are no men here who are still stuck in the Neanderthal stage of the evolutionary process; there are. But there are not quite as many, and it is pure joy to walk down the street without constant heckling. Hoisting a strong, rigid finger at the occasional beeping car is not too bad; it is a nifty little reminder of the pleasures that await me elsewhere.

# POSITIVELY REVOLTING:

Laura Rauscher

by Deb Cohen

Laura Rauscher is an influential leader in the disability rights movement. During the past ten years, she has worked across the country to effect policy changes in the areas of attendant care, housing, transportation, and public accessibility. In Hawaii and California Laura worked for independent living programs. In D.C., on a one-year fellowship, she worked with the National Council on the Handicapped, for the institution of national disability policies.

She was the Assistant Director for Handicapped Student Affairs at UMass for four years. Currently, she is employed in Boston at the State Office for Handicapped Affairs as a Coordinator of the Transportation Accessibility Project. She is also working on the Project for Women and Disability.

For the past three years, Laura has taught weekend workshops at UMass on disability oppression through the Social Issues Training Project; and in April, at Hampshire College, she will lead a workshop on disabled women and reproductive rights.

Laura's activism is rooted in her feminism and in her childhood experience of being segregated into a school for the handicapped.

"Being a feminist laid the foundation for building political ideas about disability. There's a similarity between women's oppression and disability oppression, a correlation of experience. They're both about disempowerment."

On an interpersonal level, Laura deeply affects all who have the good fortune to meet her. Her enthusiasm, courage, and positively revolting life are a challenge to the negative stereotypes about disabled people, and an inspiration to all women.

Though her schedule keeps her busy, Laura can be found dancing and playing pool on weekend nights in South Hadley.

## Positively Revolting Actions

Compiled by Kim Withrow

"I do not believe that there was any community in which the souls of some women were not beating their wings in rebellion."

--Charlotte Woodward, the only woman attending the Seneca Falls Convention on women's rights who lived to exercise her right to vote almost seventy years later.

Although these words were spoken over one hundred years ago, political actions and acts of rebellion still play an integral role in today's women's movement. In response to this, the Valley Women's Voice would like to create a space each month in which local women's political actions can be listed. In a society where women and women's actions are so often silenced, it is inspiring to learn about the courage of our sisters in working towards social change. In addition, women's political actions from the past that have not been erased by patriarchal historians will also be included.

--"Dead Men Don't Rape" was seen spray painted in at least two locations in Northampton, one on Crackerbarrel Alley and one on the overpass before the junction of route 91 traveling on route 9 west.

--The words "No Means No, Stop Rape" have been visible on the pavements of UMass for almost three months now. They can be seen by the ramp leading to Whitmore and outside South College.

--"Abortion Rights for All Women" appeared spray painted across campus last semester in response to the Right to Life Awareness week. These can still be seen outside Herter Hall and the Student Union Building.

--According to the Daily Hampshire Gazette, 40-50 Valentine cards in the Faces stores in both Amherst and Northampton were defaced or destroyed. The following messages were stuck to the cards in Northampton and inserted in cards in Amherst: "Romance is a conspiracy against women, beware of the rapist with

flowers in his hands" and "They say it's romance, but it feels like rape. They say it's love, but it feels like hate." These actions seem to be the culmination of nearly a month-long series of actions against the Northampton store's Valentine display. Sometime in mid-January, this display, including a poster of Marilyn Monroe, was placed in the store's window. Not long after, the manager received an anonymous phone call from a woman who said, "This (the poster) is a sign of rape." A typewritten note was found on the window by the poster stating, "This is woman hating." On February 8th, a substance was sprayed on the window covering the lower portion of the poster.

--In 1833, a teacher named Prudence Crandall defied the white townspeople of Canterbury, Connecticut by admitting a black girl into her school. Ignoring the unanimous opposition of the parents of the white girls attending the school, Prudence Crandall refused to give in to their racist demands and decided to recruit more black girls to the school. Despite a widely supported boycott, in which the local storekeepers refused to sell supplies to the school and the village doctor refused to treat any of her sick students, Crandall continued to operate the school. Several fires were set within the building, manure thrown into the well, and school windows smashed. The school continued to function until the Connecticut authorities ordered Crandall's arrest. She not only defied the traditional attitudes concerning the conduct of a white "lady," but also emerged in a victory of strength, despite her apparent defeat.

If you know of any actions that have taken place in our community, please call or write --anonymously please--the Valley Women's Voice, 321 Student Union Building, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. (413) 545-2436. We will be happy to include a statement describing the action in our next issue.



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# NEWSBRIEFS

## SUICIDES IN CENTRAL ASIA

Moscow - The Soviet Union acknowledged recently that there are severe problems in Central Asia, including unemployment, corruption, and social pressures that have caused 270 women to commit suicide by burning in the past two years. The acknowledgment in the leading Communist Party newspaper Pravda came in an attack on deficiencies and problems in the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan. The Pravda article said "only 32.9 percent of the able-bodied population" in the republic is actually working, a reflection of both low female participation and a lack of state jobs.

New York Times



## WOMEN EARNED 70 PERCENT OF MALE PAY IN '87

Washington - Women cracked the 70 percent barrier in 1987 for the first time to narrow a pay gap between themselves and men, the government reported in February.

The median weekly earnings of men working full time rose \$17- from \$428 to \$445 - between the end of 1986 and the end of last year, while those of women climbed \$13 - from \$296 to \$309, the Labor Department said.

In percentage terms and averaged over the year, the median weekly earnings for women working full time in 1987 were 70 percent of the pay received by men, up from 69.2 percent in 1986.

The gap has been steadily narrowing since 1979, when the Bureau of Labor Statistics first began collecting data on the wage difference by sex and when women earned 62.5 percent of what men made.

The median amount is the point at which one-half of the population group made more and half made less.

Boston Globe  
[That's less than \$.01 per year increase. Oh wow! - WVW editor]

## BOSTON LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE ENDORSES JACKSON

The Greater Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance has unanimously endorsed the presidential candidacy of Rev. Jesse Jackson. Jackson's "longstanding commitment to and public support for gay and lesbian issues from foster care to AIDS funding," won the group's backing, said Will Hutchinson, alliance chairman. Jackson was the only candidate to speak at the October gay and lesbian civil rights march on Washington and the only candidate to address gay and lesbian issues during the presidential campaign.

--Boston Globe

## WOMEN'S AGENDA CONFERENCE

Des Moines - The recent Women's Agenda conference was a coming-together party for women who want to have an impact on the 1988 campaign.

Next Fall, ten million more women than men are expected to vote. The message the women at the conference wanted to send was deliberately as deep as those grass roots and as widespread as the bipartisan membership of the 42 national women's groups- from the Business and Professional Women to the National Women's Political Caucus- that organized this event.

It was expressed this way by Sarah Harder, president of the American Association of University Women, in her warning to presidential candidates: "Don't think of women's issues as a tiny handful of set-asides that will satisfy a rowdy minority."

In contrast to 1984, today's agenda is more inclusive and more complicated: a composite of jobs, housing, child care, health care, education, and peace. At this meeting, the National Organization for Women, once the flagship of the women's movement, was just a wing of a larger and more moderate fleet.

The conference here marked a real transition for women in American politics. Women's issues today- about their economic lives, their families, their futures- don't fit neatly on a bumper sticker the way the letters "ERA" once did. At the moment, the role of women voters in the 1988 election is quite literally "undecided."

Boston Globe



## BABY M DECISION

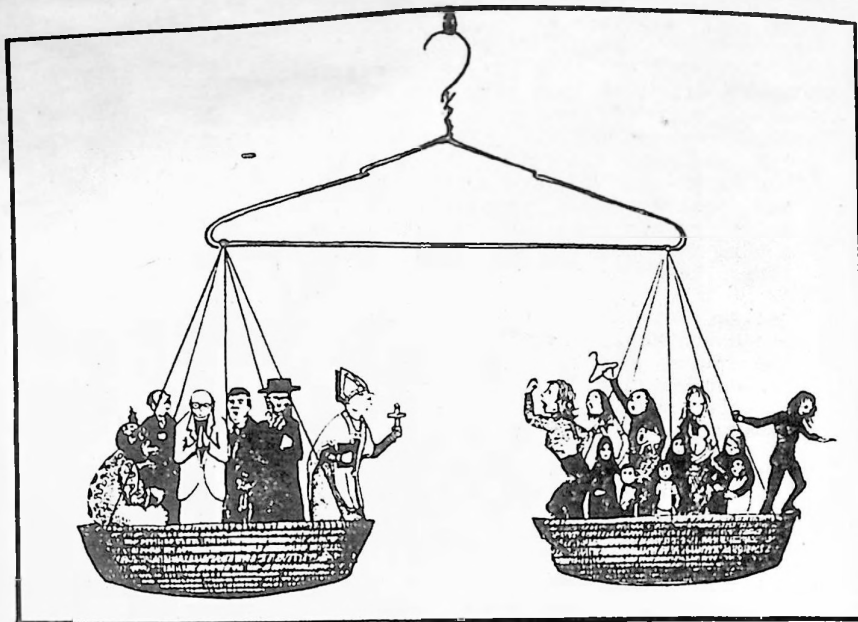
The New Jersey Supreme Court recently undid most of the decision that a lower court judge reached in the case of Baby M, and it has declared that, contract or no contract, the woman who gave birth to her is her legal mother. But the new decision leaves Baby M, now Melissa Elizabeth Stern, where the earlier one did - with her biological father.

The decision was the first involving a surrogate motherhood contract to be issued by a state's highest court. That fact, and the public attention the case has focused on the issue, is expected to give the decision importance beyond New Jersey, although many of the agencies that handle surrogate agreements said they would not change their practices.

The court held that the contract in which Mary Beth Whitehead Gould agreed to bear the child of William Stern for \$10,000 was "illegal and perhaps criminal." The 7-0 decision relied on the state's adoption and custody laws, which forbid any payment for a child and permit the natural mother to rescind a decision to surrender a baby and her parental rights.

While the higher court invalidated the contract and the adoption by Elizabeth Stern, it found it in the best interests of the baby, now 22 months old, to remain in the Stern's custody. Mrs. Whitehead Gould will be permitted to visit the child, however, on terms to be worked out after another court hearing.

New York Times



graphic by elizabeth p. powell

## STATE TO SUE OVER CURBS ON ABORTION COUNSELING

Attorney General James M. Shannon recently filed suit to challenge new federal rules that prohibit abortion counseling at federally funded family planning clinics.

While the new rules do not directly challenge a woman's right to an abortion, they cut off access to abortion referrals to more than 80,000 low-income women in the state served by the federal Family Planning Program.

"Affluent women will always have access," said Joan Whitaker, coordinator of business affairs at Action for Boston Community Development Inc., which receives federal money for family planning clinics.

Those who will be denied access to information about abortion will be "women at the poverty level and below, the working poor and the uninsured," she said.

In Massachusetts, 86 clinics that receive about \$3.5 million in federal funds would be affected. Nationwide, the Family Planning Program operates on a budget of about \$140 million and provides services in 4,000 clinics to 4.3 million women, 3.7 million of whom are poor.

While federal law already prohibits spending federal funds on abortions, the new rules from the Department of Health and Human Services state that federally funded programs may not provide abortion counseling, may not refer women to abortion providers and may not engage in lobbying or legal action to increase the availability of abortion.

The rules are a reversal of current federal guidelines that require clinics receiving federal funds to offer, on request, counseling about abortion and referrals to doctors who provide abortions.

The rules are to take effect March 3. Opponents expect to have the rules enjoined before March 3, to prevent the government from putting the rules into effect, said Scott R. Swirling, executive director of the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association, representing the 4,000 clinics that receive federal funds.

Swirling called the regulations "a sop to the right-to-life lobby" by the Reagan Administration, which put forth the rules while knowing they are "blatantly illegal and unconstitutional."

Under the terms of the Roe vs. Wade ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court, the constitution protects the right of women to consult freely with their doctors about reproductive options, said Raskin. He said the regulations also violate free speech rights by forbidding the clinics from engaging in prochoice activities but not forbidding them from engaging in anti-abortion activities.

Boston Globe

## CHILD PORNOGRAPHY LAW REVERSED

A sharply divided Supreme Judicial Court recently declared a state child pornography law unconstitutional over-broad, reversing the conviction of a man who took semi-nude pictures of his 15-year-old step-daughter. The court struck down a law that made it a crime to permit a child under age 18 "to pose or be exhibited in a state of nudity... for the purpose of visual reproduction in any book, magazine, pamphlet, motion picture film, photograph, or picture."

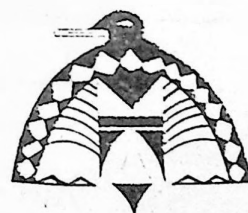
The overbreadth of the law "is substantial," said Justice Herbert P. Wilkins, writing for the majority. "It criminalizes conduct that virtually every person would regard as lawful." It, "for example, makes a criminal of a parent who takes a front view picture of his or her naked one-year-old running on a beach or romping in a wading pool. Surely the First Amendment protects that kind of activity..."

Justice Francis P. O'Connor, joined by justices Joseph R. Nolan and Neil L. Lynch, wrote a biting dissent that said the conduct prohibited by the law should not be considered speech that receives protection under the First Amendment.

"Soliciting, causing, encouraging, or permitting a minor to pose for photographs is no more speech than is setting a house afire in order to photograph a burning house," said O'Connor.

Marjorie Heins, Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts staff attorney, praised the decision as one that, "recognized that photography is a First Amendment protected activity." The decision, however, does not mean that the court will not uphold a more narrowly focused law "that concentrates on true child pornography or criminal conduct," she said.

Boston Globe





## COMPUTERS FOR GIRLS CLUBS

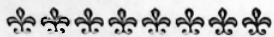
New York, NY - Operation SMART, the Girls Clubs of America program to encourage every girl in Science, Math, and Relevant Technology, received an Apple Computer, Inc. equipment grant of 200 Iie computers for distribution to local Girls Clubs across the country.

Established in 1985 to address the critical need to "demystify" math and science for girls, Operation SMART encourages long-term participation in those fields of study. The computers, to be awarded to local Girls Clubs through a competitive selection process, will enable Clubs to increase computer literacy among girls and young women. Girls Clubs of America affiliates will submit program proposals requesting from three to ten computers.

The goal of this program, entitled "Project Apple," is to establish community learning centers in Girls Clubs by making computers available for members and other underserved groups. Under the supervision of capable staff, girls will engage in activities that build problem-solving skills, encourage initiative, and stimulate curiosity. Strategies such as peer tutoring - girls working with others their age or younger - will be promoted. Project Apple is expected to reach about 10,000 girls per year.

Nine out of ten of today's girls will be in the workforce for 25 to 45 years. Many jobs that pay well and offer opportunities for advancement and personal fulfillment require math and computer literacy. Yet, studies indicate that while girls and boys perform equally well in math and science through middle school, many more girls than boys drop out; that 75 percent of college majors require three years of math; that only 15 percent of students taking advanced placement exams in high school computer science are female.

Girls Clubs of America



## PAP SMEAR ABNORMALITIES ON RISE IN TEENAGERS

There aren't good statistics, but officials at several area health centers as well as some national experts say there seems to be a dramatic increase in precancerous abnormalities found in Pap smears of teenagers and young adult women. Pap smears are laboratory examinations of swabs taken of the cervix, the neck of the uterus that extends into the vagina.

So many teenage girls with abnormal Pap tests have been referred to Children's Hospital in Boston that the hospital has created a special clinic for treating cervical disease.

Some specialists said the apparent increase in abnormal Pap tests may be due not to more illness but to greater awareness among young women of the need for Pap tests or to more scrutiny by laboratories of mild cervical disease.

And as fear of AIDS increases, they said, teenagers may become more careful about sex, which would also provide protection against cervical disease.

Infection with the virus is thought to be lifelong. Most infected people won't get cancer, but no one knows who will or how other factors compound the virus's cancer-causing potential.

So far, at least, full-blown cancer of the cervix is not increasing among women of any age group, according to the National Cancer Institute. Dysplasia, the precursor to cervical cancer, almost always can be cured by removing or destroying the abnormal cells. The Pap test can detect dysplasia years before it becomes invasive can-

cer, and it has been credited with a sharp decrease in the incidence and death rate from cervical cancer since the 1950's. Still, however, the cancer strikes 12,800 American women each year and kills 4,500, according to the National Cancer Institute.

According to Dr. Martin C. Craighill, director of The Boston Children's Hospital clinic for treating cervical disease, girls and young women are a source of particular cancer concern, Craighill said, because their cervixes may be especially vulnerable to the papilloma virus. During adolescence (and pregnancy and menopause) she said, the cervix undergoes cellular changes that may make it more susceptible to invasion by viruses.

Said Craighill: "You do the same things to prevent human papilloma virus [infection] that you do to prevent AIDS and herpes and the other sexually transmitted viruses. That's the most important message. If you look at the zillions of people with papilloma virus, you give them another five or ten years, are they going to be coming in with AIDS?"

Boston Globe

## FRAMINGHAM WOMEN'S UNIT STRAINS SYSTEM

The Framingham women's prison unit is not just crowded. At roughly 500% over capacity, it is the most crowded unit in Massachusetts, which has the most crowded prison system in the country. The odds are that this small prison unit, where an average of 80 to more than 100 women are locked in rooms built for 19, ranks among the most crowded prison units in the nation.

And yet, none of the women are there because they have been convicted of a crime. All are awaiting court action on a charge and only about 13 percent of them will wind up with a prison sentence. In some cases, they are there simply because they cannot make bail of a few hundred dollars or less. And although some pass through in a day or two, a few have been there awaiting trial for nearly a year.

Most of the women, who are in their twenties and thirties, are awaiting trial on drug-related charges, prostitution, or theft.

Even state officials agree that these women, many of them young mothers charged with non-violent crimes, are being confined under conditions worse than those in prison.

Correction officials say that efforts are under way, including the construction of a new awaiting-trial unit at Framingham expected to open in 1991 and the opening of new county jails, to relieve the situation. But inmate advocates, who have long complained about the unit, say they have run out of patience and have asked the Supreme Judicial Court to intervene.

In a letter to the court, the Prisoner's Family Group of Massachusetts charged that conditions at the unit violated the women's rights to equal protection and humane treatment and asked the court to act immediately.

"People are supposed to be innocent until proven guilty, but these women have less rights than someone who is sentenced," said Molly Baldwin-Champagne, a group representative.

Boston Globe

## BREAST CANCER DEATH RATE RISING

The reason more and more women are dying of breast cancer may be that only the lucky few who live near cities with sophisticated cancer centers are getting the newest and most promising treatments, a leading cancer specialist has suggested.

New breast cancer data, released by the National Cancer Institute, have left specialists baffled and worried. Not only is there no simple explanation for why both the incidence and the death rate of breast cancer are up, but there does not appear to be a great deal that women can do about it, specialists said.

Even screening mammograms, which most specialists agree reduce the breast cancer death rate by about 30 percent in women over 50, play an unclear role for younger women. In the absence of truly curative treatment, these diagnostic tests can prolong the time that a woman is identified as a cancer patient without increasing her chances for survival, noted one doctor-researcher glumly.

The incidence of breast cancer - new cases diagnosed per year - is the highest in history. It has risen by about 1 percent a year since 1973 to a high of 104 cases per 100,000 women in 1985.

The National Cancer Institute report says about 130,000 women a year are diagnosed with breast cancer every year, about 41,000 women die from it, making it the leading cause of cancer death among women.

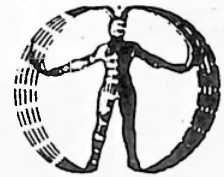
Edward Sondik, chief of the institute's surveillance and operations research branch, said there may be more breast cancer developing in American women because of the trend toward delayed childbirth. There is a three-fold increase in the risk of breast cancer for women who have their first child after age 30 compared to those who give birth before age 20, he noted.

Aside from the important risk factor of breast cancer in close female relatives, other risk factors, he said, are the age when a girl gets her first period, menarche, and the age at which a woman ceases to have periods, menopause.

Henderson said the best way to reduce the risk of breast cancer is to shorten the time between menarche and menopause, that is, to reduce the number of years in which a woman's sex hormones are active.

Though drinking more than half an alcoholic drink a day has been linked with increased risk of breast cancer, Henderson said, "I can't fathom why alcohol should be an important factor and it's very frightening so we don't deal with it. Yet the data is strong that alcohol is a risk factor and you can't ignore that."

Boston Globe



## FEMALE MARINES REPORT HOMOSEXUALITY PROBE

The Marine Corps is investigating the alleged homosexuality among female Marines at Parris Island and plans to court-martial or discharge up to 10 women who train female recruits, according to three women who say they are being investigated. The corps has suspended three female drill sergeants and is continuing an investigation of them and as many as seven other Marines, the women said. The women have been accused of homosexuality, sodomy, and fraternization, but have not yet been formally charged. They said they are not homosexual. "I think the big picture is that our femininity is in question here...The qualities and traits that we demand and are supposed to be training our recruits are the same traits that they're saying make us look homosexual," one of the women said. Lt. Col. John Shotwell, a Marine Spokesperson in Washington, said the policy throughout the Defense Department "is that, simply, homosexuality is incompatible with military service." Last year, 68 Marines were discharged for homosexuality. The corresponding numbers were 88 in 1986, 105 in 1985, and 116 in 1984.

--Boston Globe

## ANTIGAY BIAS RULED ILLEGAL AT BROWN

Providence - Brown University has joined the rest of the Ivy League in barring discrimination against Lesbian and Gay students, faculty, and staff. The vote by the Brown Corp., the university's governing body, adds "sexual orientation" to the list of categories against which discrimination is barred. Students who have been urging the university to adopt a sexual orientation clause since at least 1984 said the issue had enormous symbolic value, but they doubted that such a clause, by itself, could eradicate homophobia on the campus.

Boston Globe

## ROSA PARKS HONORED

Rosa Parks, the seamstress who helped ignite the civil rights movement by refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Ala., bus, was honored on January 31 at the Museum of African-American History.

Soul singer Aretha Franklin was among at least 350 people who turned out for the event, which kicked off a 10-month national celebration of Parks's 75th birthday. Franklin gave Parks a bottle of perfume from Tiffany's, artist Carl Owens unveiled his portrait of her, and students from Rosa Parks Middle School in Detroit sang and danced.

When Parks was arrested in Montgomery 32 years ago, the black community retaliated by boycotting the buses. After a long and bitter struggle, buses in Montgomery and other Southern cities were desegregated.

"I'm just about speechless," said Parks. "I can hardly think of a thing to say. But this has been a great day."

Boston Globe



# AIDS UPDATE

## WOMEN PICKET COSMOPOLITAN MAGAZINE

About 150 people attended a January 15 demonstration called by the Women's Committee to ACTUP (the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) at the New York offices of Cosmopolitan magazine. Demonstrators were protesting a recent Cosmopolitan article claiming that heterosexual women have little risk of getting AIDS and advising women not to use condoms or practice safe sex. Another subject of the protest was the article's racist assertion that African women contract AIDS sexually--while U.S. women supposedly do not--because African men "take their women in a brutal way...closer to rape by our standards." The article's claims about the safety of "ordinary" heterosexual intercourse are patently false. AIDS is now the leading cause of death for women between the ages of 18 and 34 in New York City; 26% of women diagnosed with AIDS nationally had no risk factor other than unprotected heterosexual intercourse, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Chanting "For every Cosmo lie, more women die," demonstrators picketed Cosmopolitan's offices on 57th Street, then blocked traffic on Seventh Avenue while marching to the nearby Hearst Corporation Building, which owns Cosmopolitan. Protesters attempted to enter both buildings to meet with Cosmopolitan and Hearst staffers but were blocked by doormen at the Cosmopolitan offices and by police at the Hearst Corporation. Until Cosmo prints a retraction, ACTUP has called for an international boycott of the magazine and has demanded that all advertisers withdraw their ads.

--The Guardian

## AIDS HOSPITAL CLOSING

The Institute for Immunological Disorders, the nation's first private AIDS hospital, shut down after losing \$8 million in the 14 months it was in operation. The hospital's closing has had painful consequences. The closing has meant a decline in the quality of patient care and a return to hospitals where fear and prejudice is prevalent and treatment sometimes wanting. Reported AIDS cases in Houston, home of the Institute, are fourth highest in the nation after New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Patients and activists say the hospital's closing is symbolic of both the country's and state's lack of caring.

--Boston Globe

## FDA APPROVES DRUG FOR AIDS AFFLICTION

The Food and Drug Administration has approved an experimental drug to treat a type of life-threatening pneumonia that often afflicts AIDS patients. The FDA commissioner, Frank Young, said the drug, trimetrexate, is the first to be granted special treatment status under the agency's new regulations that allow drug developers to provide prematurely promising drugs to patients with certain serious conditions. Normally, months are required for the FDA to complete data on a new drug's efficacy or toxicity and then give approval for full commercial distribution. The FDA's new regulations, known as "treatment IND" or investigative new drug, became effective in June 1987. The new drug is toxic to the bone marrow cells and the gastrointestinal tract, and potentially lethal at the doses needed to treat the unique pneumonia, so the FDA requires that it be administered with leucovorin, an approved drug used for protecting human cells.

--Boston Globe

## CONDITIONS SURROUNDING AIDS TESTING QUESTIONABLE

In the January 8 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, a study which reviewed all 275 AIDS-antibody tests given at St. Paul-Ramsey Medical Center in St. Paul, Minnesota, and at its clinics from April 1985 through August 1986, revealed that only 10% of the tests performed fulfilled the criteria for an appropriate test. The researchers defined an appropriate test as one that is justified; is explained to the patient, and has patient consent; is accompanied by counseling on how to reduce the risk of getting or giving the infection; and is entered in the patient's record. Almost 90% of the tests given appear to have been done either without good reason, or without consent. A commentary accompanying the Journal study noted that mishandled test results can cause financial, social, and psychological consequences that are "immediate, severe, and irreversible." No laws governing AIDS-antibody testing are in effect in Minnesota, and the practices there may reflect practices in other states without protective legislation.

--P-FLAG/Pioneer Valley  
Information Sharing

## HIV CONTROVERSY

Within the scientific community there is growing concern that HIV may not be the true cause of AIDS. According to Dr. Peter Duesberg, a member of the National Academy of Sciences and leading molecular biologist who has studied retroviruses for two decades, years of time and millions in research dollars have been wasted on the belief that HIV is the cause of AIDS. The real cause of AIDS, Duesberg says, is still unknown. For a parasite or a virus to be pathogenic, it has to meet three criteria. The HIV virus, the so-called AIDS virus, does not meet one of these criteria. Furthermore, HIV is at incredibly low concentrations and activity, leading Duesberg to say that it cannot be the cause of a fatal disease. In fact, HIV is found in more healthy humans than sick humans. Duesberg said scientists researching AIDS are much less inclined to ask scrutinizing questions about the etiology of AIDS when they have invested huge sums of money in companies that make money on the hypothesis that HIV is the AIDS virus. A recent study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association showed that of all AIDS cases registered in New York and San Francisco after 1985, 93% were never confirmed to be HIV positive.

--SPIN News Release

## AIDS AND BOSTON INFANTS

New, unpublished data indicate that AIDS-virus infection among inner-city babies in Boston may approach New York City rates of one infected infant in 60. The new Massachusetts data on newborn AIDS infection, being compiled by state health officials, are expected to be published soon. Public health authorities consider infections of newborns by the AIDS virus a barometer of the spread of AIDS among drug addicts and their sexual partners. The evidence of high rates of newborn AIDS infection is the major reason Boston health officials are not deterred by Dukakis' administration opposition to distributing free sterile needles and syringes.

--Boston Globe

## Suggested Safe-Sex Guidelines For Women and Their Partners:

The following safe-sex guidelines were developed by women to help reduce exposure to AIDS. These are suggested guidelines. They will undoubtedly change as more information is gathered about women and AIDS:

Safe-sex practices might include:

Hand-holding, hugging, massage, caressing, fondling, closed mouth kissing, masturbation, rubbing bodies together

The use of sex aids so long as they are not shared if in direct contact with body fluids; or, if shared, thoroughly washed between use (bleach diluted 1 part to 10 parts water is known to kill AIDS)

Inserting fingers into the vagina or anus wearing latex surgeons gloves or finger cots

Any sexual activities that do not involve the exchange of body fluids

Possibly safe-sex practices might include:

Licking the clitoris (cunnilingus) or anus (rimming) with the use of a protective barrier such as dental dams, a thin sheet of latex placed between the mouth and genitals

Sucking of the penis (fellatio) without ejaculation, or with a condom (caution - some men leak semen without ejaculating)

Sucking on the nipples of a woman who is not lactating or otherwise secreting

Inserting unprotected fingers without broken skin into the vagina or anus

Getting urine or other body secretions on external unbroken skin, including vaginal and breast secretions, menstrual blood, female ejaculate, saliva, and feces

Open mouth kissing

Penis/vagina or penis/anus sex with the use of latex condoms and spermicides with nonoxinol 9 (known to kill AIDS in laboratory setting)

Unsafe sex practices might include:

Penis/vagina or penis/anus sex without the use of condoms and spermicides with nonoxinol 9

Cunnilingus or rimming without use of a protective barrier, especially during menstruation since menstrual blood is considered the same as any other blood

Fellatio with ejaculation (bleeding gums could provide a way for the virus to enter the blood stream)

Sharing sex aids that come into contact with body secretions without adequately cleaning them

Sucking on the breasts of a woman who is lactating or otherwise secreting

Getting any body secretions directly into the mouth, vagina, or anus, including vaginal and breast secretions, menstrual blood, urine, female ejaculate, saliva, and feces

Any type of blood exchange

Compiled by the Women's AIDS Project

## AIDS Resources

### NATIONAL AND OUT-OF-STATE HOTLINES AND SERVICES

Public Health Service AIDS Hotline, (800) 342-AIDS. TTY (800) 235-2331. 24 hours, 7 days a week.

National Gay Task Force AIDS Information Hotline, (800) 221-7044. Monday-Friday, 3pm-9pm.

Blacks Educating Blacks About Sexual Health Issues (BEBASHI), 1319 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19107. (215) 546-4140.

The Women's AIDS Project, 8235 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 201, West Hollywood, CA 90046. (213) 650-1508.

Women's AIDS Program, Boston, MA. (617) 267-7573.

Centers for Disease Control, 24-hour AIDS Hotline, Atlanta, GA. (800) 342-AIDS.

### MASSACHUSETTS AND LOCAL HOTLINES AND SERVICES

Massachusetts Alternative Test Site Program, (617) 727-9080. 24-hour taped info about HIV testing.

AIDS Action Line, (617) 536-7733, (800) 235-2331 (toll-free in Massachusetts), Monday-Saturday, 9 am.-9 pm. Sunday, 12-4 pm.

Hispanic AIDS Information Hotline, (413) 737-2632. Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.

Jewish Family Services (Shelter for homeless persons with AIDS/ARC), 184 Mill St., Springfield, MA 01108. (413) 737-2601.

New North Center (Bilingual AIDS information and referral hotline), 67 Jefferson St., Springfield, MA 01105. (413) 737-2632.

University Health Services, UMass, Amherst, MA 01003. AIDS bibliographies, pamphlets, audio-visual lists, and epidemiological updates available.



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Fund AIDS Research.

P. Stadler/CPP

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## Costello, continued from p. 1

She observed that women found it difficult to confront the men with their sexism. "They were angry about it," she said of the women. "They had taken it before. I understand as a woman I don't have to follow the roles. Not many people know that. It took a lot for them to speak out; you could sense the intimidation." She noted that some women are not used to seeing other women being assertive, and men certainly are not: "They were very intimidated by a strong, assertive woman" like herself.

Costello said that men who were confronted were often willing to consider their own sexism. "I said, 'Look, we're fighting for equality. How can you strive for racial equality and treat people like they're sexually inferior?' That came across; that was strong to people."

Some reactions made a strong impression on her: "Most people could have been in that group saying, 'Fuck you, women,' but that didn't come across. When I told them, 'This is sexist,' they thought about it and some, I felt, even wanted to cry. They had not even known. And you know that's a victory when that happens, when people think about it." Their behavior had to be brought to their attention, she said, "just like racism has to be brought to a white person's attention."

But even non-whites must sometimes attend to their own racist attitudes. According to Costello, protestors organizing the media committee "said there were some people who couldn't even speak grammatically correct, and they shouldn't be on the air. I was like, 'Excuse me, but isn't this what white people say to Black people: 'You can't speak correctly?' Can't you see what you're doing? This is internalized oppression here.'"

After the initial confusion and disarray, and even in the presence of friction between men and women, and between people in general, the protestors managed to set up a democratic process, achieve unity, organize committees that assumed responsibility for everything from finances to academics, and even to have some fun. "It was very democratic," said Costello, but they had to go through a lot to make it that way.

Describing herself as "an activist posing as a student and a worker," Costello is involved with the Young Communist League, the Organization for Marxist Studies, the Pan-African Students Association, the American Indian Students Association, solidarity groups for Central America, and has travelled to Nicaragua. "As far as organizing, I've been in for a while," she said. Consequently, she is all too familiar with sexism in progressive movements. "The men fighting for equality are just as sexist," she said. "Just like I see a lot of white people out there organizing. They want to eradicate racism, but they don't even recognize the racism within themselves."

In spite of these difficulties, progress can be made, diverse people can organize, as demonstrated by the takeover, which Costello considers a success. "It came about. That was the most significant thing about it all," she asserted. "You've got all these different backgrounds, and we got together and organized in a crisis. That's a major, major, accomplishment."

But the hard work begins with the end of the occupation, as monitoring committees see that the negotiated demands are met. According to Costello, "If the time comes when we feel that none of our demands are being met, I'm sure another occupation will take place. Maybe not at New Africa House; maybe at Whitmore."

Commenting on the negative publicity generated by the New Africa House action, and previously by last Spring's racially-motivated World Series brawl in Southwest at UMass, Costello said, "I would like for UMass to be remembered not so much as a campus full of racism. I would like a slogan to be, 'UMass fought racism and won.' We should try to understand what's going on and fight it."

And as more of us determine to engage in the multifaceted struggles within and without, against hate, division, and ignorance, perhaps the gap between the present and that future time when JoElla Costello's optimistic slogan is a statement of fact will begin to close.

Meanwhile, Costello has laundry to do. But she makes it clear, "I don't do any fucking dishes!"

To contact JoElla Costello or campus organizations against racism, write:

Students Against Racism  
c/o JoElla Costello  
P.O. Box 1096  
Amherst, MA 01004

## MONTHLY EMISSIONS: Physiology of the Menstrual Cycle

by Jessy Diamondstone

This article primarily addresses common physiological processes involved in our menstrual cycles. However, every woman has her own personal relationship with her body.

The ways in which we experience our menstrual cycles (and our bodies in general) vary tremendously. Some women may feel a great deal of pain during menstruation. For others, menstruation is a peaceful, joyful time to withdraw and celebrate our bodies. There are women who feel extremely sexual around the time of ovulation, while others may only feel sexual just before they menstruate. Some of us associate feeling bloated (a common pre-menstrual feeling due in part to the body redistributing water, not generally retaining more water) with depression; while others may associate their fullness with grace, power, or physical strength. Artists (including home-makers), writers, and other professionals, sometimes use their menstrual cycles to plan their time most effectively. They plan their occupational demands, such as "high production", "creativity/exploration", "sensitivity/communication", etc., at specific times in their cycles so as to be most efficient. Others may use it as an excuse to rest and be needy for a day or two. And still others hardly acknowledge their menstrual cycles at all.

Our experiences depend on a number of factors. Our personalities and life styles play a major role. Our ethnic backgrounds, diets, economic class, sexual preferences, personal histories, etc., may be reflected in how we view our menstrual cycles and our overall bodies. Our experiences, whether common or unique, are valid and deserve respect.

### What is the menstrual cycle?

During our reproductive years, when we are not pregnant, lactating, or experiencing emotional or physical stress, monthly fluctuations in the level of hormones prepare our bodies for the possibility of conception. This monthly process of becoming fertile involves three cycles - the hormonal, ovarian, and uterine cycles. These three cycles functioning cooperatively are called the menstrual cycle.

In our society, with the relative availability\* of good nutrition, menstruation often begins when a girl is around 12 1/2 years old. She must weigh about 105 lbs., at which point 1/4 of her body weight is fat. This is just one of the reasons why fat plays an important part in our well being. As long as we maintain a body weight above the weight we had when we began menstruation, the menstrual cycle will continue. At age 25 or so, our ovaries slowly begin to decrease their production of estrogen, while other glands begin producing more. Eventually the ovaries stop producing enough estrogen for menstruation to occur; this is menopause, the cessation of menses. Although it is an

approximately 25-year-long process, it is felt most dramatically between the ages of 45-55.

\* Even with high food production, starvation and malnutrition remain a serious problem in our society, especially for women and children and people of color.

The two most remarkable times during the menstrual cycle are when we menstruate (day 1 to approximately day 6) and when we ovulate (14 days before menstruation). Menstruation marks the end of one cycle and the beginning of the next. At this time, part of the endometrium - lining of the uterus - falls away and flows out through our vaginas. This lining contains mucus, vaginal secretions, dead tissue cells, and blood, though it may all appear to be blood. Also at this time a new egg is beginning to develop in an ovary. Ovulation is when the egg becomes fully developed and leaves the ovary where it has been nourished, to travel down a fallopian tube towards the preparing uterus. Ovulation can be felt as a twinge on either side of the lower abdomen, an ache called "mittelschmerz" (middle pain), or tiredness. Sometimes there is blood spotting at this time.

If we were to think of our menstrual cycle as the cycles of the sun's seasons, menstruation might be seen as winter when life has fallen from the plants and trees to return to the earth. At the same time, tiny seeds are preparing to burst forth. Ovulation would be summertime when nature's fruits are ripe and life is most vital.

### OVARIAN CYCLE ... a cycle within the cycle

The ovarian cycle has two functions. It is responsible for producing the necessary hormones for the uterine cycle (estrogen and progesterone). It is also responsible for the development of an egg. This cycle takes place in the ovaries.

Most of us have two ovaries, one on either side of the uterus. These glands are about the size and shape of unshelled almonds. When we are born, there are about 400,000 half developed eggs in these two small ovaries. Each of these potential eggs is surrounded by a cluster of supporting cells which is called an egg nest or follicle. Most of the ovarian action happens in this tiny follicle. Once a month during our reproductive years, one of these follicles develops and produces hormones. While inside the follicle, an egg matures.

It is interesting to picture for a moment all of the protective layers around one potential egg. First, there are our homes, then our clothes, then our skin. Under the skin there are several layers of fat and muscle, then bone. Deep in the abdominal cavity there are two small almond-shaped glands (ovaries) inside of which there are little egg nests - follicles. Finally, in the center of that tiny nest, there lives one of 400,000 potential eggs.\*

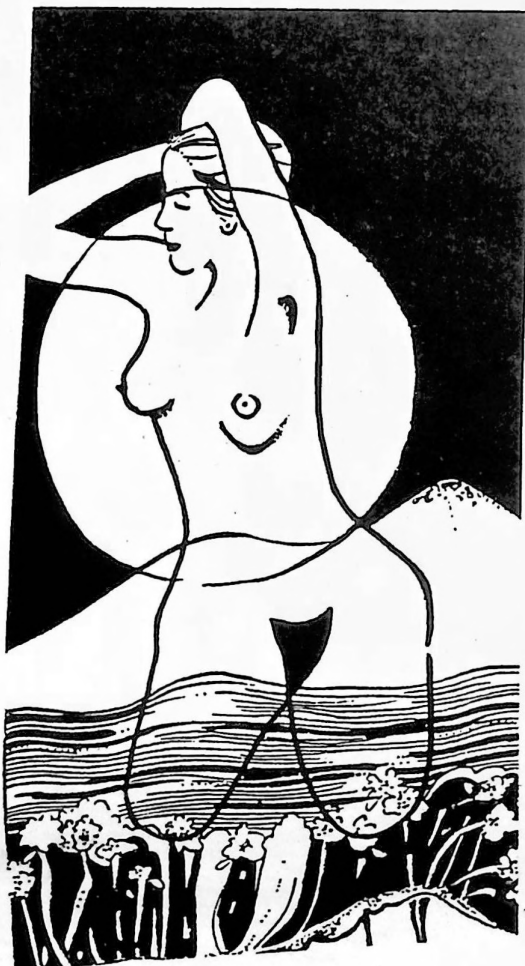
\* I say "lives" because the cells in our bodies are alive. Some people believe that life begins only after a man's sperm touches the egg, but, in fact, the egg - like the rest of our flesh - is alive without sperm, and we abort this life, and the lives of many other cells, naturally, through menstruation.

On day one of our menstrual cycle (1st day of our menstrual flow), several of these follicles are stimulated to grow by a hormone, FSH (Follicle Stimulating Hormone). One of these tiny follicles develops fully, while the others fade away. Nobody knows what determines which follicle will continue developing.

While the egg matures within the follicle, the follicle is producing estrogen - a hormone necessary for uterine development. Slowly the follicle moves to the surface of the ovary. At this point, estrogen production is very high. When the egg is mature, the outer surfaces of the follicle and ovary disintegrate, and the egg is released into the abdominal cavity. This is ovulation. Feathery, fingerlike tissues at the opening of our fallopian tubes make gentle waving motions to guide the egg through the tube toward the uterus. At this point, conception is possible. This process of egg development within the follicle is called the follicular phase of the ovarian cycle.

Following ovulation, the remaining follicle becomes a corpus luteum - a small yellow glandular structure. It produces less estrogen now and increases progesterone supply to the uterus. This second half of the ovarian cycle is referred to as the luteal phase and is very important because it provides the uterus with the necessary hormones to complete the uterine cycle. About a week before menstruation begins there is a peak level of progesterone. At this point, the corpus luteum begins to break down, and eventually disappears, ending the ovarian cycle.

Continued on p. 11



## POETRY

### Just the Facts Ma'am Just the Facts

March 1988

Some radical communist weirdos  
are accusing the CIA  
of starting the Aids epidemic  
first in Cuba, then here

(think Hitler)

Some radical communist weirdos  
are talking about the targeting  
of the usual targets,  
like black people,  
like gay men,

(something about planting  
an unstoppable monster  
in your own country)

and I know no one  
reasonable will believe  
this wheatpasted poster  
in a city  
where you can buy cocaine  
like a bottle of wine,  
where burnt out empty buildings  
are never empty,  
where five subway stops away  
men revolve doors for you

(if you are white)  
(if you are wealthy)

because they are paid  
to revolve doors for you

(if you are white)  
(if you are wealthy)

in a city where  
the Bridal Registry in Bloomingdale's  
is completely computerized,  
in a city where  
I listen to a vet  
explain how he was ordered  
to murder a man  
for his political beliefs.  
This was in 1973,  
but this was not Vietnam,  
this was not Germany  
this was not a horror  
of extenuating circumstances  
or a rationalization of war.  
So three American soldiers  
followed orders  
and killed a man  
for his politics.

And I want to call newspapers,  
go to court,  
but there is no one,  
he explains,  
to tell this to.  
Everyone, he explains,  
has a story like his.

(I'll pause here)

John Stockwell has a story  
like his.

An ex-CIA agent explaining  
his job in Vietnam, Angola,  
the step by step procedure  
of destabilization:  
the burnt crops,  
the blown up energy plants,  
the torture manuals.  
And of course,  
the domestic CIA experiments:  
a virus in the San Diego Bay,  
whooping cough  
in New York City schools,  
vertigo in the New York  
City subway lights,

(just to see what would happen  
for half of the biggest city  
in the United States  
to see double.)

And I know no one  
reasonable would believe this  
in a country where  
a woman is raped  
every three minutes,  
where up to 3 million  
people are homeless,  
where the average prison sentence  
for molesting a child  
is probation,

where protest  
against a most serious  
and complete destruction

takes the form

of 500 white activists  
signing up with the police  
to get arrested.

(I'll pause here)

In Nevada,  
500 white people  
paid the state  
\$250 each

to protest  
their own Annihilation.

\$125,000  
is very civil  
disobedience:

Maybe we should buy  
commercial time  
during the Super Bowl  
to save money.

But of course  
this is a reasonable  
media event  
in a country  
where corporations like  
Dow Chemical,  
General Dynamics, and  
Pepsico  
pay no taxes  
but together take home  
\$420 million,  
who regulate a world  
in which one species  
a day goes extinct,  
where rain forests  
are being leveled  
to graze cattle to become  
whoppers,

and baby, we better hold  
on a lot more than just  
the pickle and the lettuce,

like maybe stop bombing  
in Philadelphia, New York,  
Atlanta, Detroit,

which would probably  
stop the bombing

in El Salvador much faster  
than bumper stickers  
explaining that our  
tax dollars are paying  
for rape, murder, and torture  
in Central America

(that lefty vacation hot spot)

because our tax dollars  
are paying for  
rape, murder, and torture  
in North America,

because fighting repression  
first in our foreign policy  
is like fighting patriarchy  
by making a woman president:

Listen, I was one of 70  
white people arrested  
on my campus against the CIA  
and god you know  
I think I was right.  
But I can no longer  
think it is right  
to be a white 'radical'  
in an all white 'radical' group  
thinking it's a shame you know

(being all white)

but what can you do?

We can stop wondering  
why no people of color  
come to our meetings,  
we can stop guessing,  
stop assuming,  
stop pretending  
that fighting foreign policy  
is fighting our own  
racism/imperialism,  
fighting for a change  
in the inescapable violence  
of a government  
and a culture  
based on domination,  
desperation  
and assault.

Because let me tell you  
something: fighting  
foreign policy is safe.

Until we are prepared  
to shake the hierarchy  
of a power structure  
entrenched like steel beams  
into our white cement  
foundation selves  
we are too safe to make change.  
And so, I believe  
it is time to be dangerous.  
Until we are ready to be dangerous,  
Black people,  
Latino people,  
Native American people,  
Asian people,  
all marginalized people  
in white America  
will have no reason  
to believe  
that white people  
are ready for a change  
It is time to be dangerous.

I will be dangerous  
when my shadow is so long  
when I stand alone  
that my government  
can no longer be bothered  
to bug my house,  
or tap our office phone,  
when you are all the way  
across town, but our enemy  
sees you in my shadow,  
hears you in my voice,  
when we don't have  
the problem of planning  
our events on the same day  
because they are the same day,  
when we stop sending letters  
to Congress and start sending  
letters to each other.

When the big they  
finds out the fractioned us  
can work together,  
then we will be dangerous,  
then we will make a difference.  
I extend an invitation  
to my fellow white 'radicals'  
to stop thinking  
it's a shame you know,  
but what can we do?  
We can prove that we are serious.

Are you ready to be dangerous?

- Sarah Bush  
Northampton, MA







PATTI O'NEAL, a performer in "Sculptures," seen at UMass during February's Black History Month.

Photo by Elizabeth Oeder.

## It's What She Said

"Women is losers, honey,"  
a woman I admired once sang,  
and I believed those words;  
believed them only too well.

Seventeen years ago,  
that woman left this earth,  
But, those WORDS....  
and the wailing Blues way  
in which I'd heard them said,  
stayed with me  
for much longer  
than they should have.

Anita Liberto  
Warren, MI

through the crack in the doorway  
i see her touching his face  
oh god  
i spill my drink

my vision is blurred  
(i can hear her and i laughing  
together years ago)  
her hand on his sweet face  
she will spend the night with him

alone i fall asleep  
spinning and spinning  
and spinning in the dark  
my mouth dry  
with nicotine and gin

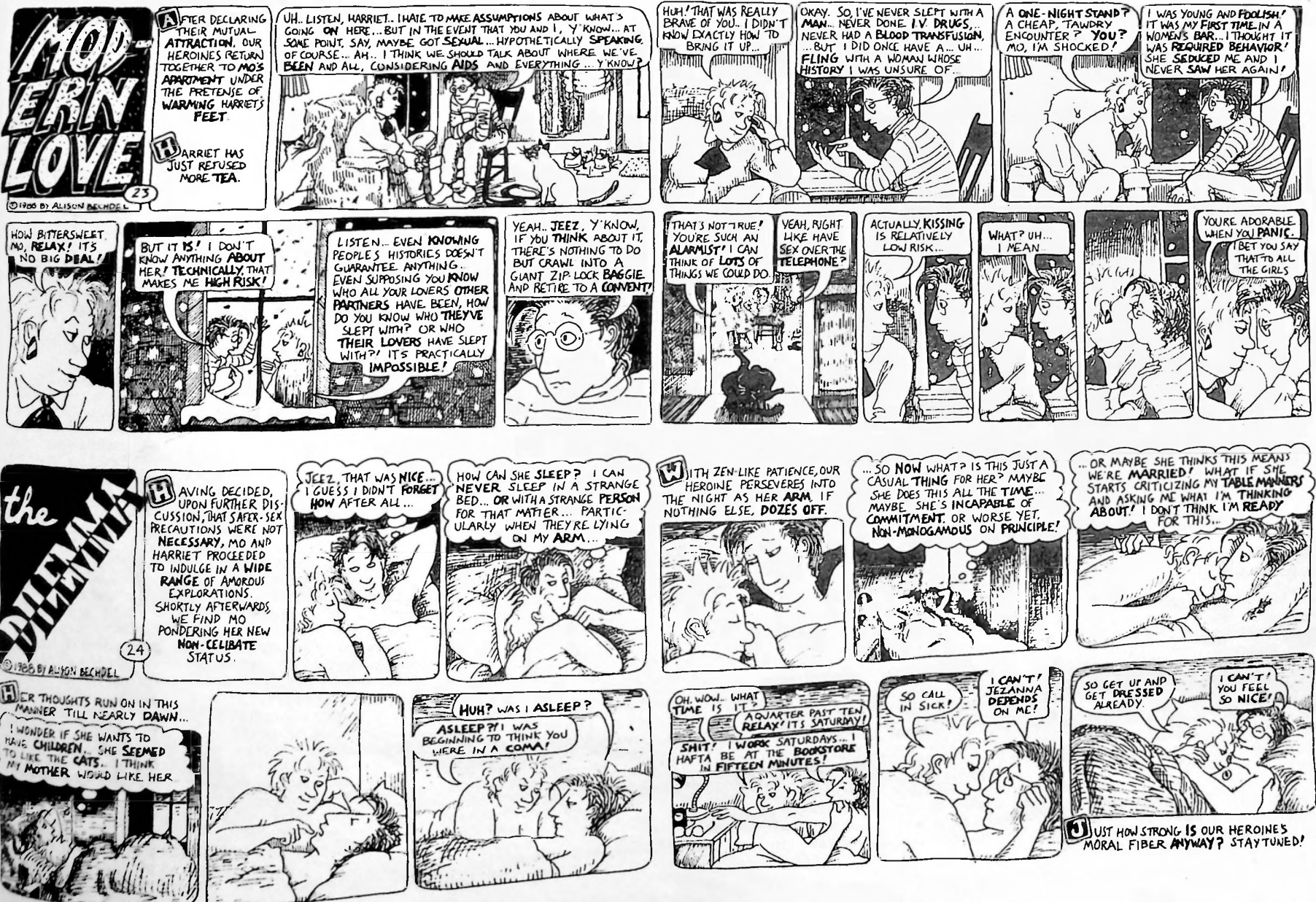
holly williamson  
amherst, ma

## Lesson from a Lady

And she will make you feel as if you're on top,  
Believing you hold the key to her soul.  
Head held high, body strutting as you stroll,  
the china-doll expression of a prop.  
Following her lead, moving side-by-side,  
As you play an interchangeable Karma  
In her cruel and calculated drama;  
You eject your heart while she eats your pride.  
Then slowly you discover pieces  
Of your soul splattered and spewed on the floor,  
Remnants of a passion too cruel for love.  
Licking your wounds praying the pain ceases,  
The wave of knowledge penetrates your core,  
Blinding enlightenment soars like a dove.

Stacey Beckerman  
Amherst, MA

## Dykes to Watch Out For





## Abortion Services in Ireland and the United States

by Lisa Horan

On January 1, 1987, the High Court in Dublin, Ireland, ordered two clinics counseling women on abortion to stop their referral services. Justice Liam Hamilton, president of the High Court, declared that both the Open-Door Counseling and the Wellwoman Center of Lower Leeson St. in Dublin, violated article 40 of the Irish Constitution, in failing to protect the rights of the unborn. It was the first legal confrontation since a 1983 pro-life amendment copperfastened the Irish law prohibiting abortion. According to an article printed in *Irish Catholic*, the Society For the Option of Abortion "should not be mentioned, debated, or advised." It maintained that the clinics "procured and assisted pregnant women in Ireland to travel abroad for abortions," and also "assisted women in receiving advice abroad."

The Republic of Ireland, steeped in a conservative, Catholic tradition, is one of only three European countries which still prohibits abortion (Belgium and Malta are the remaining two). Sex education is not permitted in Irish public or parochial schools and divorce remains illegal in that country. All family planning purposes are for married couples only, proof of marriage is required. Only recently have condoms become available for anyone to purchase in pharmacies. The contraceptive pill is banned for minors. Morality is still determined by the Roman Catholic priests, who some say act much like politicians.

As a result of the Hamilton Ruling the Open-Door Counseling Center was forced to close on January 12. The Wellwoman Center remains open, but effectively "gagged" from referring women on the option of abortion. "Abortion has always been illegal in this country, even in cases of rape and incest," said Bonnie Mahar, one of seven directors of the Wellwoman Center. "We were always the ones doing pregnancy counseling including the option of abortion; family planning centers could never represent themselves as doing that publicly because they are partially government funded." It is the absence of any counseling in Ireland, say many health workers, that is creating more trauma and isolation for Irish women. Many take the view that Ireland is several centuries behind even other Catholic Countries (*Irish Times*, May, 1987).

Since the ruling, the Wellwoman Center is still receiving 15-19 requests a day for counseling, information and advice. "The Ham-

ilton Ruling has compounded the secrecy and guilt already harbored by Irishwomen," said Mahar. The interpretations of the ruling could be so broad that "any information given could fall under the injunction, and you can be jailed," she said. "That means anything from a phone number to telling a woman how far pregnant is too far, or how much it costs. Irish women believe they can get arrested coming back off the boat from England." Mahar also pointed out the irony of the situation in Ireland. Northern Ireland is under British rule, but abortion is illegal. Counseling and referral to British clinics are still permitted, however.

The Wellwoman Center was opened in 1978 by Anne Connolly, through a grant from the Marie Stopes Woman's Clinic in Britain. After paying off the debts, the center became an independent organization, and opened a second facility in Dublin. Both clinics provide many medical services to women, including total gyn screening, breast exams, infection testing, and smear testing. They offer artificial insemination procedures, sterilization, and vasectomies. Professional staff also provides guidance counseling and psychotherapy. There are 15 medical staff who have been trained in women's health issues and family planning. The seven directors make decisions consensually.

The Wellwoman Center is stringently obeying the law, according to Mahar. The main reason, she stated, was to keep the rest of the services available to women. "Politically, it would be disastrous if we closed. We would move back 100 years," she said. The Clinic is also appealing the court decision, though without much hope of success. "The times are very conservative - all over the world. At best we hope to get them to agree that it is an infringement on personal liberty and freedom of information. It's more political than practical - to keep the issue in the forefront."

Irish women have always had "the back door of England" said Mahar, which may partially account for the popular vote against abortion in their own country. "It would be very different if we were completely isolated."

British clinics and some Irish journalists have been sympathetic to the Irish women's cause. Some newspapers, said Mahar, published articles which, according to their legal teams, broke the injunction. The *Irish Times* has published phone numbers and written about an Irish women's support group in Britain, Mahar said, but no one brought them to court. If they had, journalists could stand

on the issue of freedom of information, or freedom of the press.

Mahar also spoke of a new "Underground Movement" designed to assist Irish women seeking abortions or counseling in Britain. The feminist community is "small but strong" according to Mahar, and a Defend the Clinics Campaign has sprung up in the wake of the Hamilton Ruling. They have produced and circulated information packets despite the injunction. Five years ago an Irishwoman's Abortion Support Group was established in Britain. They offered assistance - accommodation, directions - to women coming from Ireland. Now, they deal directly with pregnant women seeking advice, and information is getting passed through friends and by word of mouth. Ruth Reddeck, formerly of Open Door Counseling, set up a Helpline for distraught Irishwomen in Dublin.

"That pregnancy counseling has been stopped is a terrible terrible loss," said Mahar, "and this court case has taken so much energy I think other services have floundered, other projects are getting pushed aside." Her sympathies, especially, were with Irish women in rural areas who still travel long distances in the hopes that the Wellwoman Center can help them.

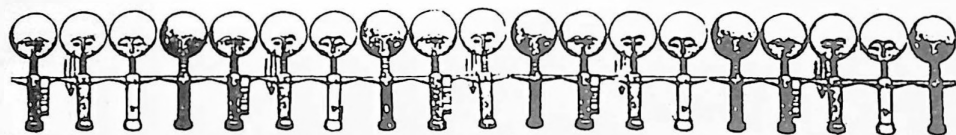
The situation in Ireland is comparable to a new restriction which President Reagan is imposing on family planning organizations in the United States. Those new regulations would ban family planning clinics from providing referral and counseling services on the option of abortion. At present, like the Wellwoman Center had in the past, family planning centers in the U.S. provide non-directive counseling. They include information on the option of abortion.

Reagan regulations would affect Title X of the federal family planning program. Currently family planning clinics do not perform the abortion procedure. This regulation would require that they separate themselves absolutely from any involvement with abortion topics.

On October 14, Senator Lowell Weiker (R-Conn) introduced an amendment which would nullify Reagan's proposal, but the amendment was not approved in the House and Senate committee hearing.

The Family Planning Council of Western Massachusetts has joined a number of organizations in a lawsuit to overturn those regulations. "Phase in of the new policy is scheduled for March third. According to press releases from Family Planning it is likely that the federal committee will issue an injunction to stop the regulations from taking effect, until it decides on the case."

Meanwhile, on January 28, *The Guardian* reported that Canada's Supreme Court struck down the country's restrictive abortion law. The ruling removes abortion from the criminal code. One wonders how close American women are to losing the right to choose; one wonders how close Canada is to becoming a back door, in an attempt to avoid the alley.



Sanchez, continued from p. 1

Sanchez expressed outrage at the escalating racial attacks in the Five College Area. "There was a great social movement in the 60's that allowed the Smiths, Hampshires and Mt. Holyokes to open up and let you in. People literally died for you to be here. What is happening here in the Valley is that people are saying, 'We can't wait to get you out'."

Sanchez exhorted black students to organize and demand their civil rights. She also asked the audience to support the black and minority student groups occupying the New Africa House at UMass. At the time of her lecture, the occupation was in its second day and had already received nationwide attention. (Occupants were protesting a February 7th incident in which two black students were injured in a racially motivated attack. On Thursday, February 18th, the Collegian reported that the administration had acceded to student demands.)

Sonia Sanchez opened her formal lecture with a short story. *After Saturday Night comes Sunday* dealt with a black woman's struggle to love and the devastating effect of drug addiction in relationships. "Some of you at the Five Colleges don't believe that that kind of love is going to hit you, because you may be too hip or too educated to be involved with that. But it hits a lot of people."

The same drugs supplied at campus parties, she explained, are being used by young children in the Bronx who sell their bodies to support the addiction. "We must not in any way deal in drugs," said Sanchez. "I am talking about the morality of staying alive to make sure that African people survive in the world."

In a process of neutralization, Sanchez explained, Africans became "Negro", their true African heritage denied. "On those plantations we were not allowed to speak our

native languages, if we had come from the same area. We were alienated from our land and indoctrinated via fear and Christianity. Fear made negroes. And it is amazing that a religion was taught us, which said God looked just like our slave master."

Blacks also experienced mental castigation. Work became connected to "non-payment, non-reward, and pain," she said. "We have passed that on to our children, in our genes. We have to learn on some level, not to always ask people for what we need, but to initiate, to take what we need in a very real sense."

Black women, especially, are taught to hate themselves in this country, said Sanchez. She recalled her own ambivalent feelings - knowing she was intelligent but believing she was ugly. During slavery, black women were continually being mentally, "prepared" for rape, harassed from an early age by all the men on the plantations. And the women eventually became "that which they wanted her to be," said Sanchez.

She cited three images this country has given of the black woman: the mammy, the whore, and the eunuch. The mammy, she explained, was white society's image of a perceived black matriarchy. She referred to the mammy of *Gone With the Wind*, who was large, fat, docile and sexless - and who "loved" her mistress, Scarlett O'Hara.

Oprah Winfrey presents a more 'sophisticated' mammy image for the 80's. "Oprah opens her breasts to audiences' collective heads. She says, 'Come on, I would really like to know all about your personal problems. You was raped? Come tell me about it. Incest? Come tell me about it. Just lay your head on this here breast.' Which means that women will not GET ORGANIZED around that, necessarily; they will come and spill their guts on the idiot box. We will all then cry, and all go about our collective business. That was the whole point of the mammy image

in the first damn place. Mammys always nurtured EVERYBODY."

Television and literature supported the myth of the black woman as whore. Sanchez spoke of the plantation period, when black women were accused of leading the white slave masters on. Media has portrayed black women as "willing" and the "sexiest babes on the planet earth."

Sanchez cited Whoopi Goldberg as modern society's image of the black woman eunuch. "She's a clown. She entertains for the amusement of a white audience. And she is sexless."

"It is amazing that we can look at each other sometimes and still have some kind of look of sanity," Sanchez told the audience. "There is a basic sanity in us, even in the midst of people saying we could not read, that we had no dignity. I knew in my time women who have also heard the cries of a dominant society that has said, 'You will be whores.' They became whores. 'You will be crazy.' They became crazy. 'You will be this,' and they became that. And I'm saying it takes a lot of strength to push that away from the ears and say, 'I have an inner strength - inside. I will be calmer, when I know I must be calm. I will walk upright like the true human being that I am... I will preserve this earth, I will preserve my body, I will PRESERVE and make sure that people will not exploit for race, for color, for any reason at all.'"

Sonia Sanchez was a faculty member of Amherst College from 1970-1975. While teaching there, it was not unusual that Sanchez' house became a refuge for troubled students. Many black women came to her seeking support. "Sometimes they got so pushed out of shape by a man that they talked about suicide. I set them down and sometimes had to slap somebody and say, 'Don't tell me 'bout no damn

Continued on p. 11



## Emissions, continued from p. 7

## UTERINE CYCLE ... another cycle within the cycle

The uterus is an extremely muscular organ. It is the size and shape of a pear. It sits horizontally\* in our bodies with the widest part (body of the uterus) towards our backs and the narrow section (cervix) pointing toward the front and connecting with the vagina. At the end of the cervix there is a fold (os) that opens to allow the lining of the uterus - endometrium - to flow out of our bodies during menstruation. The uterus is not an empty space. It is a small organ made up of powerful muscles, an extensive circulatory network, numerous glands, and several other tissues.

\* Because our uterus sits horizontally in our bodies, giving birth in the lithotomy position - flat on our backs - requires us to push up, against gravity. Anatomically, this position is most likely to cause discomfort and fetal distress. Most women in the world do not choose the lithotomy position. Due to physician's convenience, it is usually the only choice given to us in hospitals.

The uterine cycle involves three phases - proliferation, secretion, and menstruation. Each phase pertains to a stage in the preparation of the endometrium lining for the implantation of a fertilized egg (zygote). Estrogen made by the developing follicle is necessary for proliferation. Progesterone from the corpus luteum is required for the secretory phase. And a decrease of both hormones is necessary for menstruation to occur.

In the first phase, estrogen produced in the follicle (in the ovary) travels through our blood stream to the uterus where it causes the lining to thicken and produce glands. By the time ovulation occurs in the ovary, this uterine "ground work" has been completed. Estrogen levels have peaked and begun to decline, ending the proliferative phase.

In the next stage of uterine development, the newly formed glands in the endometrium secrete embryo-nourishing substances. Progesterone, produced by the corpus luteum, is responsible for activating these glands. This phase completes the final touches in the uterus. Without this phase of the uterine cycle, a fertilized egg cannot develop. This secretory phase ends as the source of progesterone, the corpus luteum, deteriorates and hormonal levels drop.

Our proliferative and secretory phases create the perfect protective and nourishing environment for a life to begin. However, if we choose not to conceive, our bodies are prepared to break down and start again, allowing us to choose again the following month. This happens through menstruation - the third phase of the uterine cycle.

We menstruate because blood capillaries and veins in the uterine lining close down, preventing oxygen and other necessary nutrients from reaching the endometrium. Without these nutrients, cells die. The lining sheds and flows through the cervix, the vaginal fold\*, and finally leaves our bodies. This phase occurs because progesterone and estrogen levels decline due to the degeneration of the corpus luteum.

\* The fact that our vaginas are referred to as "canals" can give the impression that there is a tunnel or tube, a space meant to be filled. However, our own fingers tell us that our vaginas are soft muscular "folds" in which space can be created if we so desire.

Our uterine lining or endometrium is layered\*\*. The outer-most layer, which sheds during menstruation, consists of embryo-nourishing substances, hormones, blood, mucous-like fluids, and other cellular materials.

\*\* Both our uterine linings and the Earth's surface have the potential to provide the perfect environment for life. However, this potential may not be reached due to economic/political conditions that cause poor health, malnutrition, and/or pollution.

The next layer, which is quite similar to the outer-most layer, remains and is shed during our next flow.

The layer under this is permanent and consists of tiny blood vessels and glands. Larger veins and arteries supply blood and nutrients to our uterine lining so that it is able to grow.

## HORMONAL CYCLE ... and yet another cycle within the cycle

Hormones act as messengers instigating the changes in the menstrual cycle. They are responsible for follicle and egg development, ovulation, creation of the corpus luteum, uterine development and menstruation. The 5 fluctuating hormones in the hormonal cycle are: FSH (Follicle Stimulating Hormone), which acts in the ovary stimulating growth of a follicle and egg; estrogen, made by the follicle in the ovary and acting in the uterus to begin development of uterine lining; GnRH, which detects when estrogen levels are high and sends messages to stop FSH production and begin LH production; LH (Luteinizing Hormone) which, like FSH, acts in the ovary to change the eggless follicle into a corpus luteum; progesterone, made by the corpus luteum in the ovary, and acting in the uterus to complete development of uterine lining.

Our hormonal cycle involves the hypothalamus (in the brain), the pituitary, and the ovaries. The hypothalamus is the part of the brain that maintains chemical balance.

When estrogen or progesterone levels become either high or low, the hypothalamus responds by sending GnRH to the pituitary gland. GnRH informs the pituitary that a follicle needs to develop in order to produce estrogen or a corpus luteum needs to develop in order to produce progesterone, or that the corpus luteum must deteriorate because levels are too high. The pituitary responds by making, or ceasing to make, LH or FSH.

The easiest way to picture the hormonal cycle is to break it down into two phases. The first one we can call the follicle-estrogen phase. On day 1 of our menstrual cycle (1st day of flow) estrogen and progesterone levels are low. Our hypothalamus immediately sends a message to the pituitary by way of GnRH. GnRH informs the pituitary that a new menstrual cycle should begin. The pituitary gland responds by sending Follicle Stimulating Hormone through the blood stream to an ovary. Several follicles in the ovary begin to grow and produce estrogen. One follicle matures and produces plenty of estrogen. Now the hypothalamus is happy. Estrogen levels continue to increase and the hypothalamus has to act again in order to maintain balance. GnRH is sent to the pituitary once again. This time, however, the message it carries is very different: "Enough follicle stimulation; we have plenty of estrogen. Now we need progesterone to complete the endometrium."

The second stage of the hormonal cycle could be called the Corpus-Luteum-Progesterone Phase. The pituitary has been notified by the hypothalamus that the body needs to decrease estrogen and increase progesterone production. It responds by no longer releasing Follicle Stimulating Hormone and, instead, sending Luteinizing Hormone. Luteinizing Hormone changes the estrogen-producing follicle into a progesterone-producing corpus luteum. Progesterone is supplied to the uterus. Once again the hypothalamus can rest. But just as in the first phase, progesterone levels rise and the hypothalamus has to inform the pituitary that our bodies have enough progesterone. The pituitary responds by withholding Luteinizing Hormone. As a result, the corpus luteum degenerates. Progesterone and estrogen reach their lowest level.

Phase one returns. Our low levels of progesterone and estrogen signal the hypothalamus that a new cycle is ready to begin. The hypothalamus sends GnRH to the pituitary, once again asking for Follicle Stimulating Hormone to be released.

The levels of hormones in our menstrual cycles rise and fall like the ocean's tides that peak when the moon is full and then recede. This waxing and waning is constantly kept in balance by our brain and womb communicating by way of hormones within each of us.

## Sanchez, continued from p. 10

suicide. In the midst of women in America who were living on plantations? They didn't talk about suicide. They may have killed a baby because they didn't want a baby born into slavery, but not themselves. They WAITED for people like you! You come to Amherst or Smith College and tell me you're going to commit suicide because of a relationship with some man? In the midst of what's going on in this world? No - I will slap you down on the floor first before you do that. And then I'll hold you and you can cry in my arms again and again and again."

"On this Amherst campus, we pulled from the dorms sisters and brothers that were so far out on drugs people were afraid they would overdose, and brought them to MY HOUSE. We brought them back to life. That's what it meant to teach up here - not just to teach Frederick Douglass or Zora Neale Hurston, but to teach you what life is all about - to say, Sister, I refuse to see that intelligence gone under. I refuse to see that intelligence gone on drugs because some man had done something to you.

"And you know why you break?" Sanchez asked her audience, "because no one gave you the history about yourselves to make you strong."

Knowing the history of black women and the struggle for freedom empowered her, said Sanchez. While attending graduate school, she began reading about the struggle for emancipation. She became politically motivated and worked for integration in New York City. She also met and worked with Malcolm X. But it was the women in Sanchez' life who inspired her the most. Her mother had died in childbirth, and a grandmother raised her until she was six. Her grandmother's early encouragement had a lasting effect on Sanchez' life and work.

In her concluding remarks, Sanchez told the audience that she wanted to make them healthy, where society and a predominantly

white college wanted to send them out unhealthy. "That world is saying, 'You must hate yourself, perpetuate ME, MY image that I have of YOU.' And that is what I'm saying we must not do in our time."







She ended her speech with Poem #2 from her most recent work, Under A Soprano Sky (Africa World Press, 1987):


i say. all you young girls waiting to live  
i say. all you young girls taking yo pill  
i say. all you sisters tired of standing still  
i say all you sisters thinkin you won't but you will.


don't let them kill you with their stare  
don't let them closet you with no air  
don't let them feed you sex piece meal  
don't let them offer you any old deal.

i say. step back sisters. we're rising from the dead  
i say. step back johnnies. we're dancing on our heads  
i say. step back man. no mo hangin by a thread  
i say. step back world. can't let it all go unsaid.  
i say. step back world. can't let it all go unsaid.

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# MATRIARCHITEXT: 'No Man's Land': A Review

by Linda Wheeler

How can a woman be creative in a world where her own name is not even hers to possess or give away? How can she control a language that defines "woman" as "female as opposed to male," "womanish" as "effeminate and weak"? How can she use her mother tongue when "mother" is defined as "a stringy slime composed of yeast cells and bacteria that forms on fermenting liquids"?

Gilbert and Gubar's *No Man's Land, Volume One - The War of the Words* could have attacked these language issues but merely touches on them while tracing these problems and battles through history. Concentrating on Modernism, the authors define, discuss, and detail the written interactions between men and women without judging or justifying either. Their attempt, in this volume, is to "describe" not "prescribe" and their assumptions are that "there is a knowledgeable history" and that text is "authored by people whose lives are affected by the conditions of history." Of course, the way to convey condition is through language and *The War of the Words* describes this modern conveyance as a battle, the mouth and pen the weapons.

Mid-Victorian writers, of both sexes, seemed to agree that the victor of this battle was male. With the turn of the century, however, came the distinct possibility that women could win. The key words here are "possibility" and "could." Because of the women's literary success and because middle-class women were now writing, male writers began to worry, if not become paranoid. American men, in particular, rebelled violently against this "possibility," perhaps because their rebellion against the English literary tradition was taking place at the same time.

Women of the 19th and 20th century were not confident about their own success. Guilt and vulnerability were what they won rather than pride and independence. Because of their vulnerability, women fought less straightforward battles, using wit and circumstance to overpower, or rather, keep up with, their male counterparts. Gilbert and Gubar cite Dickinson's "I rose because he sank," at this point; the victory here being passive and coincidental. The woman is able to succeed only through the man's failure. It just happens. This tradition is not followed, however, in *No Man's Land*. The authors refuse to condemn male writers in order to glorify women. They do not trap themselves by allowing women's strengths to surface only because of men's weaknesses.

In what way then can this surfacing take place? The water cannot rise on its own without the stone, which is denser, sinking. And what if the woman writer herself becomes a stone? With two stones, the water can rise even more. The weapon of male "voice" is now adopted by the women. Many - Currer Bell, George Eliot, Carson McCullers, Flannery O'Connor, and H.D. - even assume male or androgynous names to achieve success. In Radclyffe Hall's *Well of Loneliness*, however, Stephen, though she has a male name, must acknowledge lesbian desire in order to accomplish this creative success.

A woman writer can now let men win or rise because a man falls. She can write like a man, use a male name, or be a lesbian. She can write in her mother tongue, but can only use a language developed primarily by men. In the 40's and 50's, it seems that women selected "door number one." Men used their pens like penises, as weapons that women should desire. Women should be still and suffer. Men may then allow them to gain ground but only through sacrifice and guilt. Even in Shirley Jackson's *The Lottery* - the title implies pure chance - it is, of course, a woman who is sacrificed to assure a good crop.

Who wins ultimately, however, if one sex destroys the other? Gilbert and Gubar seem to believe that this is the main concern of the feminist movement, the swing towards the female victor. Rather than settling the dispute over "no man's land," this belief will only continue it, and perpetuate Virginia Woolf's idea that command of language must be achieved by relation to that language rather than by revision of it. The authors do not wish to "prescribe" however, so they include a quote from Wittig's *Les Guerilleres*:

"Men have expelled you from the world of symbols and yet they have given you names, they have called you slave, you unhappy slave. Masters, they have exercised their right as master. They write, of their authority to accord names, that it goes back so far that the origin of language itself may be considered an act of authority emanating from those who dominate...the language you speak is made up of words that are killing you."

Gilbert and Gubar achieve what they have set out to accomplish within this volume. It

is basically a survey of modern writers, male and female, their interactions and conflicts, the tallying of wins and losses. The examples and literary information used in the book are interesting, well-written, and entertaining, though the idea of war between the sexes is far from original. Even if only one sex existed, conflict would arise or literature would die.

Perhaps this volume could have achieved more by focusing on the way in which the sexes use and manipulate language, rather than on how the characters within the work interact; how the war is being fought, and not the outcome of each tiny battle. If a war is being described, a war that cannot be won, then the interest lies in the process of the fight, the weapons used, and the strategy of each side rather than explaining what each soldier does while in camp and what color his/her uniform is.

For those who would appreciate a good overview of male and female roles in modern literature, the book is well worth reading. For those who need more depth, who need to understand language, how writers use it, and how words are actually used as weapons in literature, you could be disappointed.

*The War of the Words*, however, is only volume one of three. Perhaps volume two, *Sex Changes*, or three, *Letters from the Front*, will, in fact, deal more thoroughly with the woman writer's place in this century.

*No Man's Land*

Volume 1 - *The War of the Words*  
Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar  
Yale University Press 1988

## THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH

by Toni Maschler

The phantom tollbooth is magical. In Norton Juster's book by this name, the toll-booth is the portal through which Milo enters new and unexplored worlds. Literature can serve this purpose, transforming bored and boring Milos into curious and creative people. In my reviews of books I try to keep this spirit of adventure and exploration in mind. I look for books which introduce children to different ways of life; I look for books which work against the myriad of "isms" which constrain people with labels; but most of all, I look for books which express the magic and wonder of discovering new worlds.

*Cornrows* by Camille Yarbrough, illustrated by Carole Byard. New York: Coward-McCann, Inc. 1979. \$4.95 (paper). Ages 5-10.

*Cornrows* is a written celebration of the strength that can be garnered from a loving understanding of herstory/history. *Cornrows* is a book enriched by a wealth of story-layers. Yarbrough speaks in the voice of Sister, who tells of Mama and Great-Grammaw, who, as they braid Sister's and Me-Too's hair, tell of the tellings and tale-weavers of long-ago Africans and right-now Americans. Slowly, Yarbrough unfolds these layers; as Great-Grammaw braids, story and sentiment tucked in with the hair, her text becomes more rhythmic and dreamily compelling. The elaborate weaving of hair becomes inseparable from the story-telling, the passing-on of tradition. *Cornrows* come to symbolize courageous Afro-Americans from Rosa Parks

to Malcolm X, from George Washington Carver to Aretha Franklin, those who had the strength to proudly maintain empowering traditions and overthrow oppressive ones.

The text and illustrations work together beautifully, writing style and drawing style changing subtly as the story undulates between times. Yarbrough and Byard succeed in creating the story of the jubilation of herstory/history without a heavy-handed or moralizing word. Bravo!

Available at Ali Cat, Amherst.

*WILD WILD SUNFLOWER CHILD ANNA* by Nancy White Carlstrom, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. New York: MacMillan Publishing Co. 1987. \$13.95 (cloth). Ages 4-9.

"Running and jumping  
silly and loud  
is Anna  
in the morning.  
Wild wild sunflower child  
Anna."

Carlstrom's wild sunflower child exults in the lushness of the "greening of the morning"; "buzzing bees in purple clover"; "prickly, sticky grasses singing in her nose." Each page reveals a new wonderfulness to delight Anna's eyes, her toes, her ears. Anna eating berries, Anna rolling down the hill--somehow, together, the lilting words and bright-soft watercolors manage to infect us with a giddy, here-and-now-ness. A vacation to read.

Available at Beyond Words, Thorne's Market, Northampton.

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## New Titles at Everywoman's Center

Compiled by Susan Crane and Sylvia Battey

**Parents Matter: Parents' Relationships with Lesbian Daughters and Gay Sons**  
Ann Muller  
The Naiad Press, 1987. 218 pp. \$9.95 paper.

The title of this book might at first seem a bit odd since the author focuses on and interviews lesbian daughters and gay sons more than their parents. However, the point which this mother of a gay son is making is that lesbian and gay adult children are affected very much by how their parents relate to them. What is particularly wonderful about this book is that it discusses lesbians equally (if not more) than gay men, as opposed to some other books on the topic which may add lesbians as an afterthought. A disturbing factor which Muller found in her limited sample was that lesbians have more difficulty in every sector with their parents than gay men do. After reading this fact again and again in the book I became very disheartened. However, I now feel that lesbian daughters can use this information constructively to build and strengthen other ties. This information is also helpful for lesbian daughters to realize that they are not alone and to not expend too much energy waiting and hoping for their parents to change. I found the book to be useful and positive in its affirming message to the millions of adult lesbian daughters and gay sons in the U.S.

- SC

**Sex, Power and Pleasure**  
Mariana Valverde  
The Women's Press, 1985. 206 pp. \$8.95 paper.

Exploding many traditional notions of sexuality, *Sex, Power and Pleasure* investigates the sexual lives of women today. Mariana Valverde, supportive of the changes wrought by the "sexual revolution," here unravels the stormy debates surrounding it now. She ex-

plores the issues of pornography, censorship, eroticism and power. Highlighting both the experiential and the theoretical, Valverde openly discusses heterosexuality, lesbianism and bisexuality. With wit and insight she evaluates the dramatic changes women are making in their sexual lives and argues they are not simply victims of society's conditioning. *Sex, Power and Pleasure* is a controversial and exciting work - it adds a new and fascinating dimension to our understanding of women's sexuality.

- reprinted news release  
from the publisher

**Willa Cather: The Emerging Voice**  
Sharon O'Brien  
Oxford University Press, 1986. 451 pp. \$24.95 cloth.

This is the first in-depth biography of Willa Cather in 30 years, and the first ever that fully integrates her life and work, and places them in their historical and social context. O'Brien describes Cather's struggle for self-determination as a woman writer in a male-dominated literary culture. This is the first portrait to deal openly with her lesbianism, exploring the importance of female friendships in her life and work, and accessing the impact of Cather's need to conceal her sexual identity in the creative process. The result of O'Brien's research is a unique and fascinating analysis of the relationship between Cather's life and art. As a close study of gender and creativity, the biography illuminates the difficult process by which Cather attained the identity of "woman writer." The example of her personal evolution helps us to understand subsequent women of this century who, in aspiring to artistic vocations, have followed gratefully in Cather's path.

- SB

### The Creation of Patriarchy

Gerda Lerner  
Oxford University Press, 1986. 318 pp. \$21.95 cloth.

Lerner's inquiry began with the year 3100 B.C., with what she believes was the beginning of the written word. In the book she shows both how patriarchy gradually developed in the ancient Near East at that time and how patriarchy is a human creation rather than an innate pattern. As well as stating that slavery and class oppression began after the subordination of women, Lerner finds that patriarchy can function only with the cooperation of women. Since history as we know it is largely a patriarchal enterprise, and since patriarchy itself is an historic construct, Lerner feels that women's history can be part of the historical process to 'end' patriarchy.

- SC

### Surplus

Sylvia Stevenson  
The Naiad Press, 1986. 319 pp. \$7.95 paper.

Often the road to heaven on earth - which some call happiness, and some mirage - is a tangled pathway, broadening slowly as it winds along, till at last the haven is in sight. But now and again, there is no road at all. One step out of the thicket, and there are the white walls and golden turrets, so near that they dazzle you. So it was for Sally Wraith. She came out that June morning . . . expecting simply to give a message to a friend of Miss Landison's and that morning she first met Averil.

- from the back cover



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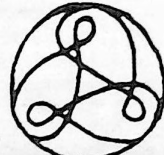
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# Is Jesse Jackson the 'Woman's Candidate'? An Interview with Lisa Baskin

by Maria D. Yorgakopoulou

Lisa Baskin is the Western Massachusetts coordinator of the Jackson campaign.

**Maria:** With the waning of the Reagan administration, many women are questioning where they stand with respect to the upcoming elections - in fact, their relationship to the entire political system. Why should feminists support Jesse Jackson in his quest for the presidency?

**Lisa:** Jesse Lewis Jackson in my view stands for the empowerment of all people - women, lesbians, gays, Jews, Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans, labor and the poor are an integral part of what Jackson calls "the quilt," all of us different patches but each integral for the unity of the whole.

**Maria:** O.K., but how does he stand on women's issues - abortion, for example?

**Lisa:** Jackson is committed to a woman's right to choose. He sees this as a right which is constitutionally guaranteed. It is also related to his belief in the separation between church and state - meaning that religious groups cannot impose their doctrines onto the citizens of this country.

**Maria:** Governor Dukakis, as a source of great concern and outrage to the gay community, has directed that D.S.S. should not allow gays or lesbians to serve as foster parents.

**Lisa:** Yes - Jackson stresses that sexual orientation should not be a factor in determining custody. Furthermore, he is the only candidate who stood with 900,000 gays and lesbians in the October march in D.C., identifying that community as an integral part of the quilt. He is the sole candidate to speak to the issue of AIDS, calling for compassion as well as demanding that the government fund research towards a cure. As president he would push for the immediate implementation of a national health care system where no one would be denied care because of an inability to pay.

**Maria:** Jackson's use of Christian metaphors is somewhat troubling - especially in light of Pat Robertson's rising power.

**Lisa:** First of all, Jackson, like Rev. Andrew Young, mayor of Atlanta, is rooted in the Black church. Historically, from the time of slavery, the Black church has been the only political institution which the black community controlled. Without the Black church there would have been no mass civil rights movement. It is in no way evangelical like the white church that Pat Robertson belongs to. Jackson is in diametrical opposition to Robertson, who seeks only to proselytize - making way for religious state which would constitutionally forbid abortion while mandating a religious agenda that includes censorship and school prayer.

**Maria:** What are his views on foreign policy? On peace?

**Lisa:** He tells us that we must "give peace a chance," that we need "guided leadership, not guided missiles." Israel and the Palestinians are "locked in a death grip." He calls for mutual recognition and mutual security. Israel "must be relieved of the burden of occupation," and the U.S. must play a major role in bringing this about. The spirit of Camp David must be nurtured if we are to see peace in the Middle East - in fact, if we are to avoid a nuclear holocaust.

**Maria:** But as a Jewish woman do you not feel threatened by allegations that Jackson is an anti-Semite?

**Lisa:** Jackson is as anti-Semitic as I am racist. No, seriously, in this society this is the reality. What we must strive for is reconciliation between the two groups as well as a continuation of an ongoing dialogue which Jackson has started. Actually, other major campaign positions are filled by Jews, most notably Mr. Austin, who is the national campaign manager. For me, Jackson articulates positions that are most closely related to my own - the issues of comparable worth, federally-funded daycare, paid maternal and paternal leave - who else supports the idea that mothers should not be penalized because they nurture children, get pregnant, breast-feed, take care of a sick child - the right to work at a living wage.

**Maria:** But are those not Simon's or Dukakis's positions?

**Lisa:** Simon actually voted for the Hyde Amendment (which prohibits the use of federal funds for abortion, so that poor women are left without the right to choose, even when the woman's life is in danger or the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest) 18 times! He has never come out against nuclear power - in fact, his positions are on the right. He voted for Gramm-Rudman and was minority whip for the Balanced Budget amendment, both of which were responsible for deep cuts in domestic spending. He has also supported a subminimum wage, all part of the Reagan agenda. On the issue of jobs and justice Gov. Dukakis comes up lacking substance. For example, since November 11, railroad unions have been on strike, including local unions in South Deerfield. The workers are striking

over safety issues. Guilford Transportation, owner of the old Boston & Maine railroad, has failed to maintain the track. In fact, the Reagan administration, no friend of labor, has fined Guilford three-quarters of a million dollars because of over 600 safety violations. Two railroad workers have been killed from runaway trains, which is the result of using inexperienced scab labor. Gov. Dukakis claims to have saved us from Seabrook, but what we have is a Seabrook on wheels because hazardous waste and radioactive materials are being transported on these unsafe tracks. Jackson alone has taken up this issue, meeting with the strikers and supporting them in the same way he has done with the striking Jay, Maine workers.

**Maria:** However, Dukakis has produced an "economic miracle" . . .

**Lisa:** The miracle has not reached Boston, where the Black infant mortality rate is the highest in the country - 25 per 1000 - or the Black and Latino community, which is plagued by chronic unemployment and underemployment, especially amongst young people and women.

**Maria:** What about the question of electability, as an aside, what about a women's candidate like Sonia Johnson?

**Lisa:** Well, Johnson is not running. Also remember, it was Jackson in '84 who first announced that he would name a female V.P. - without Jackson there would not have been Geraldine Ferraro. Jesse Lewis Jackson can be president if progressive whites, Blacks, and Latinos vote as a block. In Iowa, with a 1% minority population he got 11% of the caucus vote - this means that for every one black vote he got ten white. In N.H., with a .4% black population, the mainstream press not only does not report on the Jackson candidacy, but seeks to undermine the coalitions within the Rainbow, which includes women, farmers, labor - precisely because these disempowered groups are a threat to the status quo. With the inevitable escalation of negative publicity which will come as we get stronger (remember what was done to Ferraro) we must not lose sight of our goals. The poorest campaign with the richest message is about transforming the vision - Jobs, Peace, Justice - into reality as we move into the 21st century.

## WOMEN FOR JACKSON

As women active in peace and justice movements, we are committed to support the Reverend Jesse Jackson in his bid to run for president of the United States in 1988. We are members of the Rainbow family - Black, White, Asian, Latina, American Indian, Gay and Lesbian - and want to galvanize strong women's support behind Reverend Jackson. We welcome your active participation in this critical endeavor.

Jesse Jackson is a candidate who has proven his capability of uniting all the diverse sectors of this country into a majority committed to peace and justice. We firmly believe that U.S. women have at this moment a historic opportunity to work together across the color line to promote his peace and justice platform in the 1988 election. We encourage you and all progressive-minded women to join us in this effort. Vote for Jackson on March 8.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WOMEN FOR SOBRIETY

A group for women with drinking problems is starting on March 8 at the First Congregational Church in Amherst. The group will learn, and practice, the "New Life" program from Women For Sobriety, a national self-help program for women. The "New Life" program teaches women ways in which to cope with life's problems. Women learn ways in which to feel good about self. This program recognizes that women alcoholics' biggest need in recovery is to find self-worth and self-esteem to overcome the debilitating feelings of guilt. To join, contact Amy A. Ford at (413) 549-6377. To receive literature and general information, contact national headquarters at WFS, P.O. Box 618, Quakertown, PA 18951 (include a double-stamped self-addressed envelope).

## SERVICES FOR YOUNG LESBIANS AND GAYS

Are you, 13-20, gay, lesbian, bisexual, or questioning? Come to Lifeline Institute's free drop-in support group meeting each Monday from 4:00-5:15 p.m. Call our teen hotline Tuesdays from 4-6 p.m. to get location of the group, other resources or just to talk to someone who cares. All of our programs are strictly confidential. (413) 253-2822.



## GAY SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY CONVENTION

Gaylaxicon, the first science fiction and fantasy convention for gay people and their friends ever to be held, will take place on June 3-5, 1988 in Provincetown, MA. Presented by the Gaylaxian Science Fiction Society, a central New England organization for gay science fiction fans and the oldest gay science fiction group in the world, Gaylaxicon will have as its guest of honor J.F. Rivkin. Ms. Rivkin is the author of the fantasy novels *Silverglass* and *Web of Wind*. Memberships in Gaylaxicon are \$20.00. All memberships are by pre-registration; none will be sold at the door. For more information about Gaylaxicon, please write: Gaylaxicon c/o The Gaylaxians, P.O. Box 1051, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117.

## QUILTING BEE FOR NAMES PROJECT

If you saw the quilt at the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, we know you'll agree that it is incredibly moving and a profound affirmation of life from our community, in the face of grief and loss. The New England Chapter of the Names Project has recently formed to bring the quilt to Boston as part of its national tour. We hope that the quilt will offer the gay community a chance to join in a communal process of healing and finding strength in ourselves and one another. We are convinced that the Names Project is a masterful piece of community art that all of New England should see. Our Quilting Committee is hosting a series of quilting bees throughout New England so people can gather together while making quilt panels. A tape recorded message will tell you the dates and locations of upcoming quilting bees. That number is (617) 451-9003. Quilting contact is Janet Woodcock (617) 824-5007.

## CHRONIC ILLNESS SUPPORT GROUP

A group for people who have been suffering from some type of chronic illness and want to learn how to better cope with both the physical symptoms and accompanying emotional frustrations. Meeting weekly in Easthampton. Call Judy Somer-Doyle (413) 527-7458.



## AMERICAN POETRY ASSOCIATION CONTEST

The American Poetry Association has doubled the prize value of its two public poetry contests for 1988. Now \$10,000 in prizes will be awarded to 151 poets in each of two separate contests this year. There will be two Grand Prizes of \$1,000. Contest entry is free. "All poets are welcome to enter now. The poems are judged on originality and sincerity, and every poem is also considered for publication," said John Frost, chief editor of the Association. "There are many good, unrecognized poets writing today. We want to discover and encourage them," he added. Interested poets should send up to five poems of no more than 20 lines each, with name and address on the top of each page to American Poetry Association, Dept. CN-41, 250 A Potrero Street, P.O. Box 1803, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-1803. The first contest runs January 1 to June 30, with prizes awarded by August 31. The second runs July 1 to December 31, with prizes by February 28. Early entry is advised because the APA also plans three invitational contests for 1988.

## WRITING WORKSHOP

WRITE FROM THE HEART is a writing workshop for women who have always wanted to write but think they have nothing to say, or women who know they have something to say, but don't know how to say it. Using observation skills, sensory memory, dreams and fantasies, we will learn to express in words the emotional content of our lives. Beginners, as well as those with some writing experience are welcome. Every woman has important stories to tell! Classes begin the first week of April and meet in Northampton, evenings and Saturdays. There is a sliding scale fee. Taught by Leslea Newman, author of *Good Enough To Eat*, *Love Me Like You Mean It*, and *A Letter To Harvey Milk*. For more information, call 584-3865.

## VALLEY WOMEN ARTISTS SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Valley Women Artists wants to reach out and involve women from all walks of life. We're eager for art students, art teachers, museum and gallery workers, and critics to join with us. We'd like to bridge the gap between town and gown in this Five College area. And we'd like to extend an especially warm invitation to women of color, differently-abled women, and lesbians. The annual dues are \$35. However, a reduced fee of \$17.50 is available for those who can't afford more. And it is possible to pay your dues in installments. We don't want anyone to be excluded from VWA/WCA because of financial difficulties. Please let us help you figure out a way that you can afford to join! Call VWA treasurer Rhoda Juels at 548-9326 to make arrangements.

## GAY AND LESBIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES AWARDS PROGRAM FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF 1987

For the sixth consecutive year, gay and lesbian journalists will be competing for top honors in the annual Gay and Lesbian (GLPA) Awards Program. Awards will be given to publications, broadcasts and individual journalists. The GLPA Awards Program has become a key program of the nation's only gay and lesbian trade association which serves as a network linking member publications, broadcasts and journalists from all over the United States as well as other nations.

The 1987 awards will recognize outstanding achievements in the areas of national and local news reporting, cultural and health issues, electronic media, photo journalism, interviews, advertising design, organizational newsletters and special projects have been added this year. Judges for the Awards Program will broadly encompass international geographic representation, journalistic specialties, and balanced input from all segments of the community. Any individual qualifying for membership in GLPA may enter the competition. Entrance fees are lower for members, however. Deadlines for submission of material for awards consideration is March 15, 1988. For further information, write to GLPA Awards, P.O. Box 8185, Universal City, CA 91608-0185.

## EATING DISORDERS SUPPORT GROUP

A 10-week group forming in Easthampton for individuals experiencing eating disorders: anorexia, bulimia, compulsive eating, as well as people whose lives revolve around food. Educational activities may include readings, exercises, and guest speakers. There will be a fee. Contact Judy Somer-Doyle, M.Ed. (413) 527-7458.



## JOB SEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Displaced Homemaker Program will offer a free eight week Job Search Support Group, as part of its fifth anniversary activities. The group will begin Wednesday, March 9, 10-11:30 a.m., at 38 Gothic Street, Northampton. This group is for women who are in the process of career change and want the support and encouragement of others in similar circumstances. Career planning skills such as resume writing and interviewing will be covered, as well as allowing time for open discussion. Displaced Homemakers are women in transition who are divorced, widowed, separated or head of household, wanting to change their employment situation or return to school. Recently, the age guidelines have been dropped so that women of all ages are eligible. The group will be facilitated by Luahn Schofield Hutchinson, M.Ed., independent career counselor. For more information and to register, call 584-9111.

## 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF DISPLACED HOMEMAKER PROGRAM

In January, 1983, the Displaced Homemaker Program opened its doors and began assisting women in transition with their job and career concerns. This year marks the program's fifth anniversary. To celebrate, a month of activities is planned. The kick-off event will be an open house on Monday, March 7, from 4-7 p.m., at the People's Institute, 38 Gothic Street, Northampton. The open house will give past participants and those interested in learning more about the program a chance to meet the staff, share successes, and talk with women who have been through the program. At 6:00 Dr. Barbara Reinhold, Director of Career Development at Smith College will speak. Refreshments will be served. There will be tours of the office. A job search support group, a panel discussion and a career planning group are also part of the month-long celebration. Beginning later this spring a new program, the Transitions Program, will provide services for women on AFDC, who are ready to move into the job market. Displaced Homemakers are women in transition who are divorced, widowed, separated, or head of household, wanting to change their employment situation or return to school. Recently, the age guidelines have been dropped so that women of all ages are eligible. All are welcome to attend the open house. For more information about the open house and other upcoming events call 584-9111, weekdays.

## LIFELINE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Lifeline Institute, a non-profit organization providing educational and psychotherapeutic services to the gay, lesbian, and bisexual communities is looking for volunteers to lend support to lesbian, gay, and bisexual teens. Only a 2-4 hour/month commitment necessary, and we will train. Please call Lifeline Institute at 253-2822.

## NEW HAVEN CELEBRATES WOMEN IN THE ARTS

This March the New Haven area will once again come alive with a month-long, city-wide celebration of "WOMEN IN THE ARTS." This year's festival, sponsored by First Federal Bank of Connecticut and coordinated by the Arts Council of Greater New Haven, is a greatly expanded version of last year's celebration, and will feature not only the visual arts, but music, theater, literature and performance. It will also be highlighted by a presentation on March 13th by the internationally acclaimed visual artist Judy Chicago. This cooperative venture, in honor of International Women's Day, March 8th, is designed to showcase the talents of local, national and international artists. Over 20 galleries and arts organizations are participating, including some from North Haven, Hamden, Branford, and Madison. The work of more than 125 women is being featured. This year's program includes a variety of events, in a variety of media: art exhibits, poetry readings, musical concerts, performances, lectures, slide presentations and a panel discussion held to commemorate New Haven's 350th anniversary. On several dates, there will be coordinated opening receptions at various galleries, which either include or are followed by performances. In addition, various library branches will be displaying the works of local women writers. Contact for more information: Mimsi Coleman (203) 287-0312, Beverly Richey (203) 772-2788, or Ann Langdon (203) 785-1273.



# CALENDAR

## February 27-March 21

**Art Exhibit--**Tricia Fay will exhibit mixed-media wall works, ceramic vessels, and furniture in a solo show at the Ferrin Gallery at Pinch Pottery, 197 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060. The hours are 10am-6pm, Monday-Saturday; 10am-9pm Thursdays and 12-5pm Sundays. For more information contact Leslie Ferrin (413) 586-4509.

## March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

**Thursday Nite Club--**Featuring live music with Erica Wheeler and open mike. Homemade bagels and brownies by Tritonia. Come enjoy this candlelight cafe with the best food, music, and wimmin in the Valley. 7:30-10:30pm. 616 South Amherst Road, South Hadley. For more info contact Erica at (413) 586-0033.

## March 4

**Custody Case Benefit--**A celebration of International Women's Day on Friday, March 4, to benefit a local Lesbian custody case. Northampton Unitarian Church, 6pm-11pm. Spaghetti supper, followed by skits, singing, speakers, and a dance--stay for some or all. All women and children welcome. Wheelchair accessible. To pre-register for childcare, call (413) 584-1039 or 367-6649. Sliding scale admission, \$1-\$5 for children, senior citizens, low-income, and \$5-\$10 for all others.

## March 5

**Protest--**International Women's Day Demonstration, Saturday, March 5, NYC. Protesting the Lexington Control Unit. The Lexington Control Unit is a maximum security Federal women's prison unit using techniques of sensory deprivation and psychological torture developed in West Germany. Its explicit purpose is to break the 4 women incarcerated there (3 or whom are political prisoners). A similar unit with room for 100-200 prisoners is soon to be constructed in Mariana, Florida. We demand: No more control units, Free women everywhere, From the West bank to the South Bronx--Fight genocide. March: 1 pm. assemble at Washington Square Park. Rally: 3:30 pm. at the Metropolitan Correctional Center, 60 Park Row. Local contact, Linda (413) 323-4095. Transportation available.

## March 6-27

**Exhibition--**"That's What It's All About," a mixed-media group show in celebration of International Women's Day, Wednesdays-Sundays, 1pm-5pm. Reception March 6, 3pm-6pm. This exhibition promises to be a powerful political statement that links women of different nationalities and cultural backgrounds. It will not be a soothing show of images but, rather, a stirring one that will perhaps act as a catalyst for change. Erector Square Gallery, 315 Peck Street, Bldg. 20, New Haven, CT 06513. (203) 785-1273. Contact Ann Langdon for more information and directions.

## March 7

**Citizen's Arrest of Dukakis--**Join welfare mothers in a citizen's arrest! We will be filing a 51A for the Child Abuse and Neglect of 160,000 children on AFDC in Massachusetts and a Restraining Order for the Emotional Battering of 85,000 women on AFDC by Dukakis and the Welfare Dept. We will be making a Citizen's Arrest of Dukakis for defying a November court order to raise welfare benefits to the Poverty Level. Grant levels are now 37% below the Federal Poverty Level and Dukakis is proposing a 5.5% increase this year. Rally at noon on the Statehouse steps,

hearing of the Up and Out of Poverty Bill at 1pm in Gardner Auditorium. For transportation call the Socialist Feminist Union at 545-2436 (Valley Women's Voice Office), leave your name and number, and check back in a week.

**Venga con las madres que reciban welfare para nuestra detencion de Dukakis!--**Porque: Desafiando un Orden del Corte Suprema Aumentarse Welfare, Descuidando de 160,000 niños en Massachusetts, Apaleando de 85,000 madres en Massachusetts con la Burocracia. En Noviembre, el Corte Supremo de Massachusetts mando al departamento de welfare aumentarse welfare al nivel de pobreza (37%). Este año, el gobernador Dukakis propono un aumento de 5.5%. No es bastante! Cuando: lunes, el 7 de marzo. Donde: a la Casa del Estado, Boston. Demonstracion a 12.00, el mediodia. Testimonio Sobre el Proyecto de Ley "Al Nivel de Pobreza" a la 1.00 de la tarde en al Auditorio Gardner.

**Open House--**Displaced Homemakers Programs Fifth Anniversary Open House. Monday, March 7, 4-7pm. at the People's Institute, 38 Gothic Street, Northampton. All past participants and women interested in learning more about the program are invited to attend. Refreshments served. Displaced Homemakers are women in transition who are divorced, widowed, separated, and who want to change their employment situation or return to school. For more info, call 584-9111.

**LECTURE--**"Women's Awakening in Turn-of-the-Century Egypt: Fact of Fiction?" Beth Baron, Ph.D. Candidate of History, UCLA. 4-8 pm., Sixth Floor Lounge, Thompson Hall. For more info, contact the Near Eastern Area Studies Outreach Office, 68C Bartlett Hall, UMass, Amherst, MA 01003. (413) 545-4735.

## March 8

**Rally--**Rally against Violence against Women to be held 12 noon-1pm. on the UMass Student Union Building steps. For information, contact Taciana at (413) 586-4576.

**Support Group--**P-Flag, Pioneer Valley support group for parents, relatives, and friends of lesbians and gays, will meet on Tuesday, March 8, at 7:30pm. in the Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Spring Street, Amherst. Open to the public, all concerned persons are welcome. For further information, call (413) 532-4883.

## March 8, 15, 21, 28

**MEETING--**Women for Sobriety will meet every Tuesday evening 7:30-8:30 pm., First Congregational Church, 165 Main Street, Amherst, in the lounge (unless otherwise specified). It is a non-smoking meeting. Any questions, contact Amy Ford, group moderator, 171 Lincoln Ave., Apt 1-N, Amherst, MA 01002. (413) 549-6377.

## March 9, 30

**Seminar--**A series of gayness/oppression/homophobia public education seminars held at Springfield College. Topics are youths (March 9) and family (March 30). Held in Locklin Hall, Room 232 or 233, 7pm. Lighted parking available. Direct Inquiries to Prof. James Genasci, Box 1721, Springfield College, Springfield, MA 01109. (413) 788-3221.

## March 13

**Presentation--**Women in the Arts presents internationally known visual artist and writer Judy Chicago, who will speak and give

a slide presentation entitled, "From the Creation to the Fall." In the lecture, Ms. Chicago will discuss the evolution of her work, including her highly acclaimed, multi-media sculpture, "The Dinner Party," where she pays tribute through place settings at a banquet table to women throughout history; "The Birth Project," a series of needlework images of birth and creation; "Powerplay," her recent multi-media series on the effects of power on men; and "The Holocaust Project," her series of paintings on the holocaust scheduled for exhibit in the early 1990's. Tickets are \$7.50 in advance, \$10 at the door. 2-4pm. Yale Law School Auditorium, 127 Wall St., New Haven, CT.

## March 14

**LECTURE--**"Human Rights and Cultural Identity: The Case of Women in Egypt," Afaf Mahfouz, Attorney. 4pm. Sixth Floor Thompson Hall. For more info, contact the Near Eastern Area Studies Outreach Office, 68C Bartlett Hall, UMass, Amherst, MA 01003. (413) 545-4735.

## March 16

**Lunchtime Panel--**The impact of Women in the Arts in New Haven's Art Renaissance will be the topic of a lunchtime panel on Wednesday, March 16, from 12 noon to 1:30pm. at Artspace, 44 Whitney Ave., New Haven. Four women, Ruth Resnick Johnson, Betty Kubler, Ann P. Lehman, and Mary Hunter Wolf, will discuss how New Haven's arts organizations have served not only artists' needs but the community as a whole through education and in making art accessible to everyone. For more information, call (203) 772-2788.

## March 28

**Convention--**The Feminization of Power Tour will be in Boston on March 28. Featuring feminist leaders, speakers, celebrities, and entertainers. It will be held in the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston. For more info, call (617) 787-1988.

## March 31

**Concert--**Deidre McCalla, with opening act, the Valley's own Erica Wheeler, at the Iron Horse Cafe. Contact Erica for more information, (413) 586-0033.

## May 26-30

**Festival--**5th Annual Southern Women's Music and Comedy Festival, Memorial Day weekend in the N.E. Georgia Mountains. Featuring: Cris Williamson, Tret Fure, Alix Dobkin, Deidre McCalla, Rhannon, Deuce, Robin Tyler, Judy Sloan, Marga Gomez. For information send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to SWMCF, 15842 Chase Street, Sepulveda, CA 91343.

## WOMEN--HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIVES!

Plan now to spend 5 days over Memorial Day Holiday (Thursday, May 26-30) at Campfest, the comfortable women's music festival held near Oxford, PA. Five days of feminist and lesbian music and entertainment. Washington Sisters, Heather Bishop, Suede, Gayle Marie, Sisters of the One Eye, Dyketones, Amythyst, Faith Petric, Jennifer Justice/Lavendar Hearts. A relaxed and friendly atmosphere in a luxurious setting. Swimming pool, tennis courts, indoor hot showers, flush toilets. Choice of dormitory-styled cabins or tenting. Crafts marketplace, workshops, singles activities, softball. Come be part of the magic at Campfest with 5 days of entertainment, housing and meals for \$35 a day or less. Don't miss out on the fun! Write to Campfest: RR3 Box 185-C101, Franklinville, NJ 08322, or call Virginia at (609) 694-2037.

## UMASS WOMEN'S SPORTS CALENDAR

For ticket information, call (413) 545-0810.

## March 3

Women's Basketball, 7:30 pm.

## March 3-5

Women's Swimming, ECAC at Springfield.

## March 5

Women's Gymnastics, at Rutgers, 1:00.

## March 5-6

Women's Indoor Track, ECAC at Yale, 12:00.

## March 7-12

Women's Basketball, Atlantic 10 Tournament.

## March 12

Women's Gymnastics, Vermont with Brown, 1:00.

## March 19

Women's Gymnastics, at Northeastern with Temple, 1:00.

## March 26

Women's Gymnastics, Atlantic 10 Championships at Temple.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT/COMPANION

Looking for a gentle, sensitive woman to care for and be a companion to an elderly woman with alzheimer's disease in her home. 15-30 hours, 1 or 2 week-ends a month. For more info, call (413) 253-7568.

## MASSAGE FOR WOMEN

Therapeutic massage for women, Beth Holt, licensee. By appointment. (413) 584-9016.

## MASSAGE THERAPY

Four Hands Massage: Aro Venio and Cathberry, LMTs, also work individually. Foot reflexology, acupuncture, deep muscle therapy. \$20-\$40/hour. (413) 586-2435.

## SOCIAL ECOLOGY SUMMER SEMESTER

Study: Bioregional Agriculture, Eco-Feminism, Social Theory, Appropriate Design and Technology, Reconstructive Anthropology, and Community Health. WITH: Murray Bookchin, Daniel Chodorkoff, Ynestra King, Margot Adler, John Mohawk, Grace Paley, and others. For more information, write: Institute for Social Ecology, P.O. Box 89, Dept. 7, Plainfield, VT 05667.

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